6 KILLER POSTERS!

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NECK DEEP
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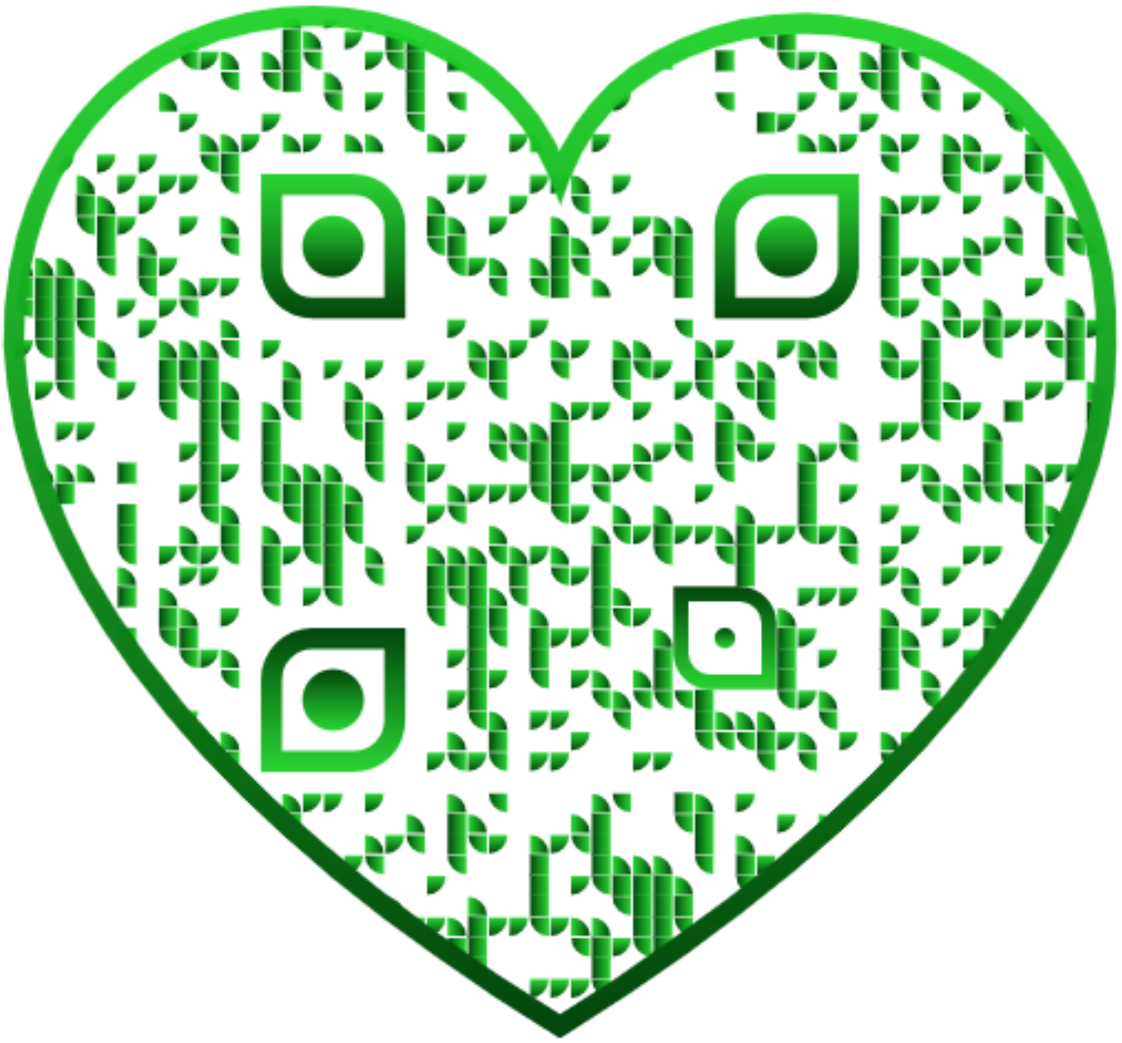

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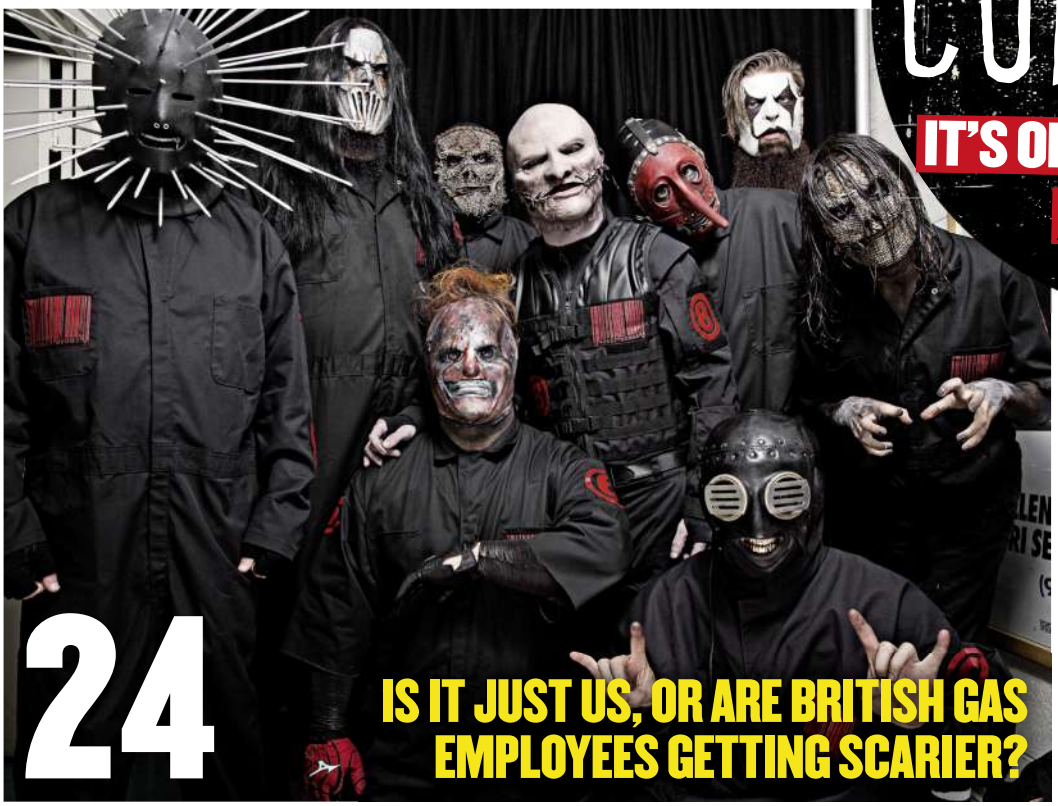

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Josh Franceschi: how much of a rock ANIMAL is he?

HELLO, READERS. As you will have seen from this week's cover, in this issue we celebrate the return of Fall Out Boy. They're back! And they've brought with them a bonkers (and highly divisive) blueprint for their new rock vision. In a fantastic feature starting on p18, Jennyfer J. Walker asks the tough questions… and gets some surprising answers. What do you think of Fall Out Boy's new sound? Let us know via Feedback@kerrang.com, and your letter could make it into the magazine.

Before I go, I'd like to pay my respects to late Kerrang! freelancer Mark Griffiths. Some nine years before I became K! Editor, Mark reviewed my band Mavis in these pages, giving our album 4Ks and making me about as happy as I've ever been! For this, and many other reasons, I will never forget him. RIP mate.

Enjoy the issue!

James
Editor

MARK GRIFFITHS, RIP

At the time of going to press, Kerrang! were extremely sad to hear that long-standing Kerrang! freelancer Mark Griffiths had passed away. Mark, a resident of Newport, Wales, was a staple of this magazine's Reviews pages in the last two decades, and was a much-loved member of the Kerrang! team – as well as being an extremely talented writer and a supremely passionate rock fan. All at Kerrang! would like to extend their sincere sympathies to all of Mark's friends and family. Rest well, mate. Rock will miss you.

COVER PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

NEWS

YOUR TONGUES DON'T FALL...

There had to be better ways to test the smoke alarm

Matt's licks were so sweet he could *almost* taste them

"SLAYER AND SLIPKNOT ARE BENCHMARKS FOR HEAVY MUSIC!"

Matt Tuck

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTOS: PAUL HARRIES

RAWER! GNARLIER! HEAVIER!

IN A WORLD-EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE FRONTMAN MATT TUCK TAKES K! INSIDE THE BAND'S NEW STUDIO ALBUM…

Bullet For My Valentine are hard at work on their fifth as-yet-untitled full-length. And according to frontman Matt Tuck, fans should prepare themselves for the heaviest record the Welsh quartet have ever unleashed. Getting away from the 'lighter' strains of 2013's Temper Temper and looking to recapture the fire of their earlier releases, the band will be reuniting with producer Colin Richardson (The Poison, Scream Aim Fire) next month and, as Matt explains, they're determined to walk out of the studio with a "rawer, gnarlier, edgier and heavier" record…

HI, MATT! HOW ARE THINGS IN THE BULLET CAMP RIGHT NOW?
"Yeah, everything's really good. We've had a lot of downtime from touring, and we've been chilling and doing our thing. But, at the same time, we've been writing the new album. It's been taking shape over about 10 months, which is the longest time we've ever spent in preproduction before, and we're excited to get into the studio."

SO, WHAT STAGE ARE YOU AT NOW?
"We've kept 10 out of around 20 songs we've written, and we're going to continue writing for another couple of weeks, and we'll still be writing when we get into the studio as well, which we always do. Having so long to do it has been a bit of a ballache in that it's been a really long and drawn-out process, and the first couple of months there was a lot of butting heads over what we wanted to do. But, having had the time to rewrite and re-demo some songs three or four times has really paid off."

SO, WHAT'S IT GOING TO SOUND LIKE?
"We're at a place where we really want to indulge ourselves on the heavier side of what we do. It's definitely the heaviest album we've ever done both in terms of the way it sounds and the content – it's very dark, too. I guess it stems from a will to prove to our fans that we can kinda rekindle what made the band so special in the first place. Not that we're unhappy with where we're at and what we've done, that's just what excites us right now. When that side of the band started showing its ugly head, we all instantly fell in love with it again. At the same time, we do think how songs will sound played in places like Wembley and Download, and it's great when you come up with something and think, 'Yeah, that's the part everyone will sing along to!'"

WITH THE SONGS COMING OUT SO HEAVY, DO YOU EVER FINISH ONE AND THINK, 'YEAH, F–YOU, SLAYER!'?
"No, not really (*laughs*)! It's not really Slayer-style heavy, and I don't think we'd really venture in that direction, but we still look up to bands like Slayer and Slipknot and take them as benchmarks for what is actually heavy. This has been a long time coming, especially off the back of Temper Temper, which was probably the lightest thing we've ever done. I think it'll take a lot of people by surprise. [Producer] Colin Richardson does the heaviest shit *ever*, so sonically that's what we want. We want it to sound amazing but a bit rawer, gnarlier, edgier, and, of course, heavier."

AND CAN WE EXPECT ANY UK DATES BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR?
"Definitely, and there are going to be a lot of surprises in that department, too. We're going to freshen things up with a slightly different approach, which will be unexpected and exciting, and that's all I'm saying about it now!"

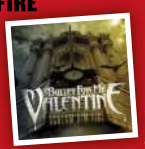
BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE'S FIFTH ALBUM IS OUT LATE 2015 VIA RCA RECORDS

METAL DETECTOR!

BFMV HAVE PROMISED A HEAVIER RETURN, SO WE SCAN THEIR ALBUMS FOR PRECIOUS METAL

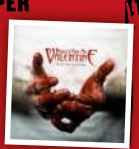
THE POISON
KKKKK (*2005*)
METAL DETECTED:
Beep beep! We've struck weighty and precious gold first time! In fact, we called it 'an instant metal classic'! The album's even certified gold…

SCREAM AIM FIRE
KKK (*2008*)
METAL DETECTED:
It's polished, valuable, and it went down well in America, but it's not quite the silver haul it may appear. It's 100 per cent pure nickel!



FEVER
KKKKK (*2010*)
METAL DETECTED:
It's platinum! A stunning return to form with the band's untarnished third album!

TEMPER TEMPER
KKKK (*2013*)
METAL DETECTED:
Titanium! Light but strong, and you really can't mess with it! This is a truly bulletproof album if ever we saw one…



WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE FOR FRANK?

K! SIT DOWN WITH FRANK IERO TO TALK ABOUT HIS FIRST-EVER UK HEADLINE TOUR – AND THE NEW MUSIC HE'S WORKING ON…

FRNKIERO ANDTHE Cellabration are coming back to our shores in April for their first-ever UK headline tour. Having opened up for Mallory Knox last year and given fans a tantalising taste of the band, this time Frank promises to give the whole .Stomachaches. album a good workout, as well as throwing in a few surprises along the way in the form of some brand-new tunes…

HI, FRANK! DOES THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS UK HEADLINE RUN MEAN THAT YOU'VE GROWN INTO THE ROLE OF BEING A FRONTMAN EVEN MORE THAN LAST TIME WE SAW YOU?
"Yeah, but here's the thing – I always think if you're starting a new project, you have to grow it, no matter what band you've been in before, and it made no sense to do a headline jaunt right off the bat. It was nice to kinda get the project up on its feet, and I'd love to do another support tour at some point, but the demand was such we felt we should do at least a small headlining run. I'm looking forward to it! That said, I don't know if I'll ever feel fully comfortable in the position of frontman, because there's a thin line between being boring and being so over the top its laughable! You try to find your place on your own terms, and I've been wary of being the quintessential frontman because, in my ridiculous and humble opinion, I think it's just a stupid role (*laughs*)! But, at the same time, no-one wants to see someone get up there and just start reading a book or something (*laughs*)!"

WE WON'T TELL GERARD THAT! SO, WHAT CAN FANS COMING TO YOUR HEADLINE SHOW EXPECT?
"Well, you can expect us to probably play everything we know! Even if we play the whole record, it's not gonna be enough, and I think these shows could be unique chances to see us do things we won't ever do again. There may be some songs we haven't recorded yet! There'll be some covers, and I've always enjoyed reworking songs and playing them differently, so that will probably happen in terms of songs off the record and ones I've released in other capacities. When making the record, I wanted people to feel like they were listening in, rather than listening along, and I want the shows to feel the same way, like everyone's a part of the same thing – playing these intimate venues will hopefully make that happen."

ANY CHANCE OF SOME LEATHERMOUTH SONGS?
"Y'know, I hadn't really even thought of that! We could do, we'll see! Maybe!"

PRESUMABLY NO REWORKED MY CHEM SONGS, THOUGH?
"Nope! No way!"

WELL, WE HAD TO ASK! YOU MENTIONED SONGS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN RECORDED YET – ARE YOU HOPING TO GET BACK INTO THE STUDIO IN THE NEAR FUTURE?
"I'd love to! There are a couple of songs I'm fleshing out right now that I would really like to record sooner than later! This year is just going to be wall-to-wall crazy, mostly with shows, and I'm not great at managing my time on the road, so life has a tendency to get away from me! I might need to hire someone big to stand over me and demand I'm more productive (*laughs*)! So, we have a U.S. run, and then the UK and Europe run, we'll be home for a little while, and then in the summer we'll be out doing festivals, and I'd like to see us come back over to the UK before the end of the year. I'm trying to think of when we can realistically get back in the studio (*laughs*)! We may have to do it a week here and a week there, but hopefully we can make something happen."

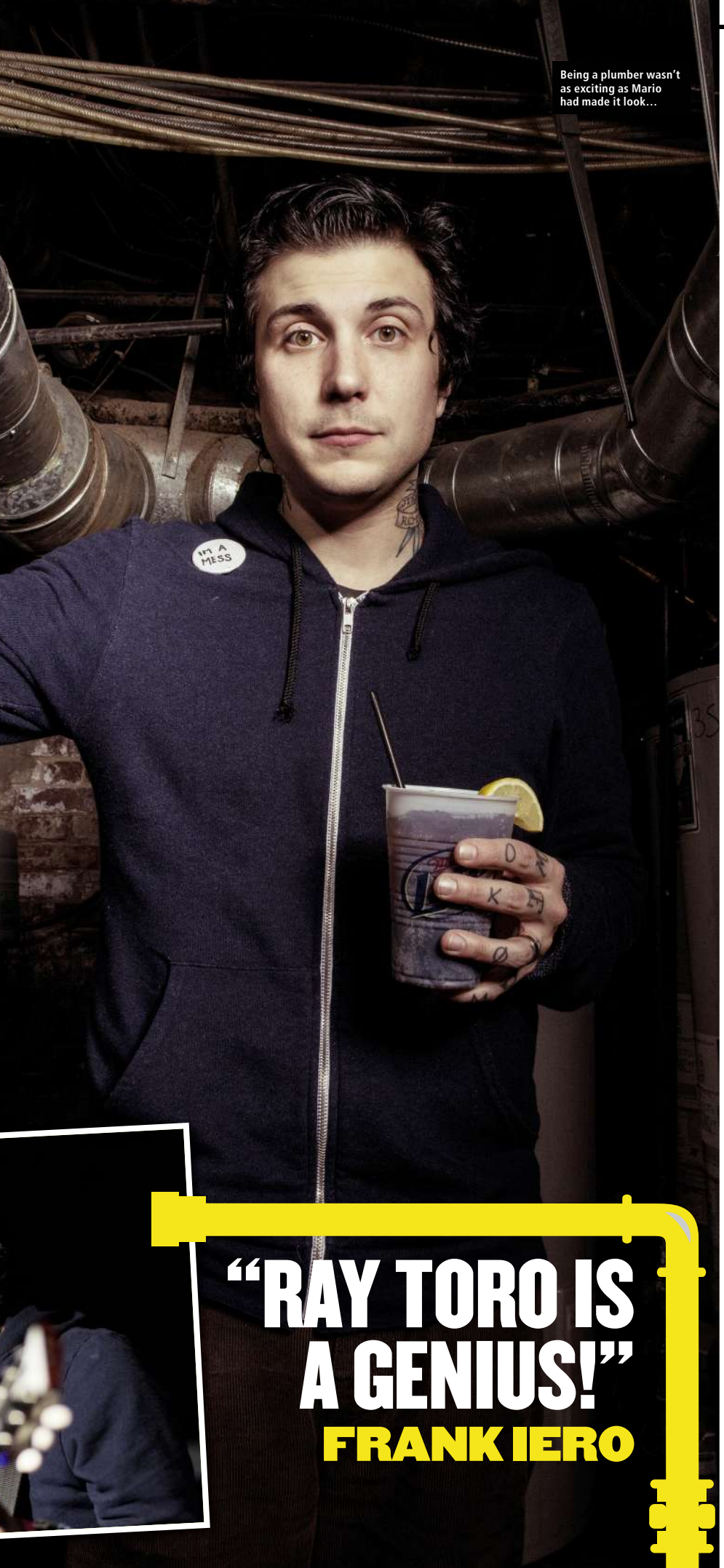
YOU DROPPED A COUPLE OF GREAT VIDEOS IN 2014. ARE WE LIKELY TO SEE MORE ANY TIME SOON?
"I'm hoping we can have something out in the not-too-distant future. I'm actually meeting with my friend John [Carlucci], who I collaborated with on the videos before, and not every hang-out turns into a video, but there *is* an idea I've been working on! Crazy things happen when we get into a room and start talking this stuff!"

AND FINALLY, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF RAY TORO'S NEW SONG, FOR THE LOST AND BRAVE?
"Oh, it's fantastic! We play each other stuff, and every time I hear something I just come back to the conclusion that he's a genius… really. It never ceases to amaze me how his brain works. I love all of his stuff and, like everyone else, I'm excited to hear what he does next!"

FRNKIERO ANDTHE CELLABRATION TOUR THE UK IN APRIL

"This one's called Stage Faucet Fear Of Trying!"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY



Being a plumber wasn't as exciting as Mario had made it look…

"RAY TORO IS A GENIUS!"

FRANK IERO

SEE THEM ON THE KERRANG! TOUR 2015

THE K! QUIZ

TAY JARDINE, WE ARE THE IN CROWD

Is she the in crowd… or just incorrect?

1 WHAT WAS THE NAME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES' HOUSEKEEPER?
TAY: "Oh, I know this! I saw the film the other day! Is it Hudson? Mrs Hudson? ✓

2 HOW MANY PAIRS OF RIBS DOES A NORMAL HUMAN BEING HAVE?
TAY: "A dozen? I'm feeling my sides now!" ✓

3 WHO PAINTED 'THE LAST SUPPER'?
TAY: " I know this one, too (*laughs*)! It's Leonardo da Vinci! ✓

4 HOW WAS ACHILLES KILLED?
TAY: "I actually used to be really obsessed with Greek mythology, like I really wanted to be named Athena. But my mind has gone totally blank. Dammit!
K!: "He got an arrow through the heel! Geddit? Achilles heel? Come on Athe… sorry, er, Tay!" ✗

5 WHO WAS DEDICATED TO KILLING MOBY DICK?
TAY: "Errrrm… I've no idea…"
K!: "Captain Ahab would be the whale hunter you're hunting there!" ✗

6 IN WHICH CITY IS THE SACRÉ CŒUR?
TAY: "It's beautiful and it's in Paris! I went there when I was a kid." ✓

7 WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE RIVER THAT FLOWS THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF DUBLIN?
TAY: "In my mind, I can picture the sign on the bridge you have to cross to get to the venue there… I think it begins with an 'L'. Liffey?"
K!: "Spot-on! Are you cheating with an earpiece or something?"
TAY: "I promise I'm not!" ✓

8 WHAT IS XENOPHOBIA?
TAY: "It's a fear of foreign people, those from other countries." ✓

9 WHICH GILBERT AND SULLIVAN OPERA IS SET IN JAPAN?
TAY: "Oh, I've no idea, I'm totally not into opera at all…"
K!: "It's The Mikado. So… now ya know." ✗

10 WHAT PLANET DID SUPERMAN COME FROM?
TAY: "Easy, Krypton!" ✓

7 OUT OF 10

It's a decent showing from the diminutive pop-punk queen, though for a Greek mythology nerd she needs to sharpen up on ancient deaths! Next time you're lost in Dublin, though, she's your girl!

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE

THE WEIRDEST BAND IN THE WORLD!

MAC SABBATH

K! CATCH UP WITH THE MCBRAINS BEHIND THE WEB'S FAVOURITE FAST-FOOD-THEMED METAL SENSATION…

EVERY SO often, the weirdest corners of the internet throw up a nugget of pure gold. In this case, it was a McNugget of deep-fried madness that sent social networks into a flurry (or should that be McFlurry?). Mac Sabbath are the world's only McDonald's-themed Black Sabbath cover band. Their manager, Mike Odd, explains…

HI! SO, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
"I met this guy called Ronald Osbourne – he's this crazy clown and he wanted me to manage his band. At that point, they were only doing secret shows in the basements of fast food restaurants. He picked me to help them out. That's when life got very strange…"

WE BET. WHO ELSE IS IN THE BAND WITH RONALD?
"Grimalice is this big furry purple guy who plays bass. The drummer is Catburglar, and they also call him Peter Criss-cut Fries. Then there's Slayer McCheese, who plays guitar. If Tony Iommi had a giant cheeseburger head that looked kind of like Snaggletooth from Motörhead, that's who he would be!"

PRESUMABLY THESE GUYS ARE FANS OF SABBATH?
"Well, Ronald Osbourne maintains that he travelled here from the '70s through a delicate passage in the space-time continuum, and if you talk about anything modern he gets very confused and angry. Black Sabbath is something he understands – it's a part of time and space that makes sense to him."

JUST… WOW. WHAT ARE THEIR LIVE SHOWS LIKE, THEN?
"They sing songs like Frying Pan [Iron Man], More Ribs [War Pigs] and Supersize [Supernaut]. Ronald also has a 15ft drinking straw that comes out of a fast food bag, and he has a barbecue grill that he's grilling hamburgers on while onstage. There's smoke and fire coming out of that thing and he's biting the head off a bat-burger – it's really something!"

HEAD TO KERRANG.COM TO SEE MAC SABBATH'S LIVE SHOW

Somebody get this man a Happy Meal!

"How the hell am I meant to play in this?!"

Just feet away from becoming a flame-grilled Whopper…

"DO YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT, MOTHERFUCKER?!"

From left: Grimace, The Hamburglar and Mayor McCheese

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTOS: PAUL KOUDOUNARIS, JOHN ALLOWAY

PANDORA by Ray Zell

Rayzell.com

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(*From left*): Isaac Holman (vocals, drums) and Laurie Vincent (vocals, guitar)

SLAVES

READY... AIM... FIRE! THIS KENT DUO ARE BRITAIN'S MOST WANTED

UNLUCKY ENOUGH FOR THOSE GUYS IN THE CROSSHAIRS, THIS LOOKS LIKE A HIT...

Which is fitting, given the Most Wanted status currently hovering in the wake of all that British punk duo Slaves do, a bit like the smoke monster from Lost. Think that's a dated reference? How about their influences: appropriately for two Kent natives, guitarist Laurie Vincent (Maidstone) and drummer Isaac Holman (Tunbridge Wells) were raised on the sounds of Medway punk, including cult garage rock hero Billy Childish and his sometime Thee Headcoat's foil Holly Golightly. It's amazing, and somewhat subversive, then, that their thrillingly uncouth racket – onstage Isaac plays the drums standing up, frothing at the mouth as he recounts Slaves' scummy soap opera – has made it onto the influential BBC Sound Of 2015 list. Check out new single The Hunter for evidence of their feral glory.

YOU MEAN THAT LIST OF SPOILT, POSH, STAGE-SCHOOL DROSS THE BBC PEDDLES AS THE SOUNDTRACK OF THE COMING YEAR?

One and the same. Slaves are, in cynical speak, 'the mainstream-anointed rock band of 2015'. "We're a bit conflicted, to be honest," admits Laurie, who proclaims that Rancid were the first band to really inspire him, when they leapt out of the pages of Kerrang! when he was a teenager. "Royal Blood were on the [BBC] list last year, and they

"WHITE VAN MEN SHOUT ABUSE AT US!"

smashed the door open for rock bands. But we want to retain our integrity; we won't do anything we don't want to do. It's just so surprising that we made the list, really. I can't really explain it. What we do is so raw, especially live. We always just hope that someone might come and see us, see what Isaac is doing, and go thinking, 'I can do that...'" Pretty punk, huh? Fitting, given that Slaves are very, very punk.

THEY LOOK IT. BUT THEN THEY SORT OF LOOK LIKE GANGSTERS, TOO...

"When we met, it was quickly apparent that me and Isaac were into the same things," says Laurie. "I was always getting the piss taken out of me at school over what I wore. I was always obsessed with the idea of being a punk. I just didn't know what to do! Then, when I met Isaac, it made sense. We both liked the same music, we both liked the same culture, we both liked the way the bands we liked dressed. When you're trying to do it on your own, it's difficult. But together we're a gang. White van men might shout abuse at me, but they shout at the two of us now!"

IT'S ABOUT TIME, REALLY. I'M SICK OF BANDS LOOKING LIKE PLUMBERS...

"It feels like it's spreading!" laughs Laurie. "We were in France recently and we saw a guy with white socks on, in a similar style to how we wear them. Then he turned up at our gig later that night wearing a Slaves T-shirt. Up until the last five years, each time had its own fashion, whether it was the New Romantics, or skins, punk, mods, or casuals, there was always a sense of identity. We want to bring that back." We want you to do that, too, chaps. But first... DUCK!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

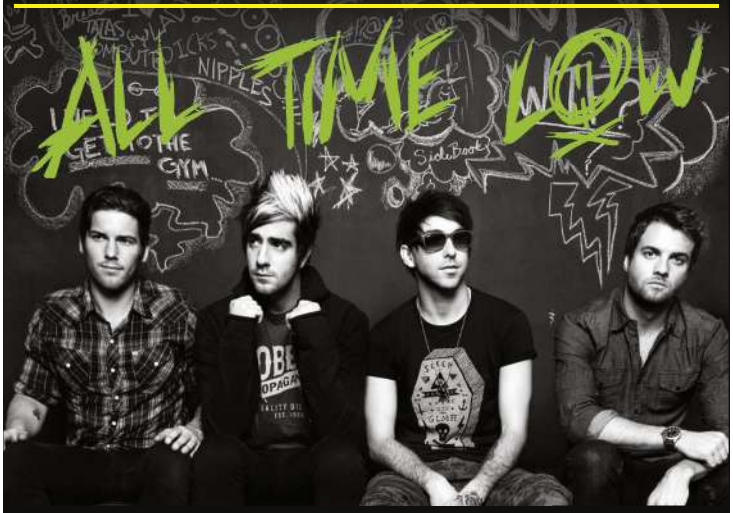
FOR FANS OF: Nirvana, Wire, The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion.
HEAR: Hey, which you can download free at Kerrang.com!
CHECK OUT: The far-out video for The Hunter on YouTube.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/slaves
DON'T MISS: Slaves and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio, and Kerrang! TV's #freshbloodfridays on Sky 368, Virgin 342 and Freesat 524.

HEAR THEM NOW ON KERRANG.COM

WORDS: JAMES MCMAHON PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

YOU ME AT SIX

CO-HEADLINE TOUR



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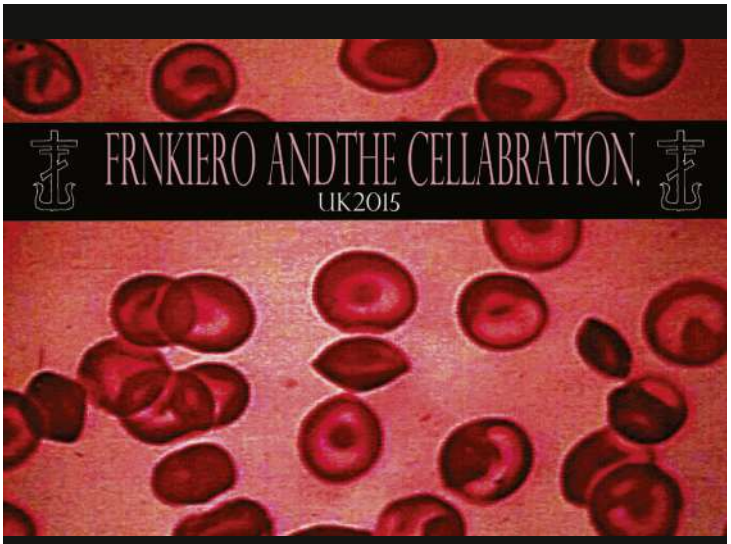

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MANCHESTER ACADEMY 3

FRI 17 APRIL
LEEDS KEY CLUB

SUN 19 APRIL
GLASGOW KING TUTS

MON 20 APRIL
NEWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY2

WED 22 APRIL
CARDIFF IFOR BACH

THU 23 APRIL
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THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

DROWN
BRING ME THE HORIZON
There's no chance of Oli Sykes and co drowning any time soon with this unsinkable track. It's so buoyant, we think it might be wearing an invisible pair of armbands.

WHEN ARE WE WAKING UP?
MALLORY KNOX
Well, Mikey Chapman, we're guessing whenever the feck your tour manager tells you to. Or your mum… since mums really like telling people to get up, for some reason.

IT'S OVER
DEVIL YOU KNOW
We're not sure what Howard Jones is singing about being over, but it's certainly not Monopoly. That damn game never finishes. We're the top hat, in case you were wondering.

TWISTED HALOS
FRAMING HANLEY
Ever heard that phrase, 'Don't get your knickers in a twist?' Well, Nixon's gone one step further on the Nashville band's latest track. If you're reading, Nix, sweet halo, brah!

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST SONGS IN ROCK THIS WEEK? LET'S CONSULT THE OFFICIAL CHART…

No.	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	11	1	ROYAL BLOOD	Ten Tonne Skeleton	WARNER BROS.
2	9	2	BRING ME THE HORIZON	Drown	SONY
3	3	3	FALL OUT BOY	American Beauty/American Psycho	ISLAND
4	8	3	ENTER SHIKARI	The Last Garrison	ENTER SHIKARI
5	6	5	DON BROCO	Money Power Fame	SONY
6	5	4	MARMOZETS	Move Shake Hide	ALL BLACKS B.V.
7	4	7	MALLORY KNOX	When Are We Waking Up?	SONY
8	11	1	FOO FIGHTERS	Something From Nothing	ROSWELL
9	8	7	OF MICE & MEN	Would You Still Be There?	RISE
10	5	10	A DAY TO REMEMBER	I'm Already Gone	ADTR RECORDS
11	3	11	PAPA ROACH	Face Everything And Rise	ELEVEN SEVEN
12	3	12	AVERSIONS CROWN	Vectors	NUCLEAR BLAST
13	7	6	AC/DC	Play Ball	LEIDSEPLEIN
14	3	10	SET IT OFF	Why Worry	RUDE
15	16	1	FALL OUT BOY	Centuries	ISLAND
16	2	16	WHILE SHE SLEEPS	Four Walls	SONY
17	9	10	GERARD WAY	Millions	REPRISE
18	6	15	DEVIL YOU KNOW	It's Over	NUCLEAR BLAST
19	2	19	AC/DC	Rock Or Bust	LEIDSEPLEIN
20	1	20	FRAMING HANLEY	Twisted Halos	IMAGEN

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 12:30pm with Dan Hudson, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 5pm and Saturdays at 6pm. Tune in and listen up!

KERRANG! TV
KERRANG! RADIO

CHART ATTACK!
IN 5… 4… 3… 2… 1…

READERS' CHART
BY JASMIN NAHAR, SLOUGH

1 **FOUR YEAR STRONG, GO DOWN IN HISTORY**
"Their EP of the same title was one of the best records of last year, and this song in particular is some fine work from the beardiest men in pop-punk."

2 **LOWER THAN ATLANTIS, HERE WE GO**
"Prior to their recent [self-titled] album, I hadn't listened to them much. That changed pretty much straight after hearing this. It's a massive song."

3 **THE BLACKOUT, SAVE OUR SELVES**
"I'm gutted they're splitting up, and I can imagine this fan favourite is going to go down a storm at their farewell tour."

4 **THE WONDER YEARS, PASSING THROUGH A SCREEN DOOR**
"I'm a big fan of their brand of pop-punk. Earnest, a bit angry, and really catchy."

5 **ATREYU, STORM TO PASS**
"Thank god they're back – it's about time! The soaring chorus on this is Atreyu at their finest."

ROCKSTAR CHART
BY ICE-T, BODY COUNT

1 **DJ SNAKE & LIL JON, TURN DOWN FOR WHAT**
"I just did this with UABB. We remade the record, but I actually really like it!"

2 **MOBB DEEP, SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST**
"I'm a big Mobb Deep fan. I keep their records in my car. This song is dope. Oh, and Body Count are planning on remaking this!"

3 **BLACK SABBATH, BLACK SABBATH**
"I like to think of this as the definitive heavy metal record! We worked with Sabbath on the Illusion Of Power record."

4 **KENDRICK LAMAR, POETIC JUSTICE**
"I had become so disillusioned with hip-hop. Then this kid came out rapping for real. I was like, 'There is hope!'"

5 **CANNIBAL CORPSE, HAMMER SMASHED FACE**
"I feel a connection to Corpsegrinder [vocals]. It's so far out there, if you take it serious it'll scare the shit outta you."

WORDS: SAM LAW

RANDOM CHART
THIS WEEK: SONGS ABOUT STUFF THAT STARTS WITH UN…

1 **METALLICA, THE UNFORGIVEN**
To open, a track about a tumultuous childhood.

2 **KISS, UNHOLY**
What have you been up to this time, Gene Simmons? Licking the iced buns in Greggs when no-one's looking?

3 **MUSE, UNINTENDED**
Matt Bellamy and co didn't *mean* to become one of the biggest rock bands on the planet, it just happened.

4 **SERJ TANKIAN, THE UNTHINKING MAJORITY**
'*We don't need your democracy*', sings Serj Tankian on this song. You tell 'em, mate!

5 **PARADISE LOST, UNREACHABLE**
Guys, is the horseradish at the back of the cupboard again? We'll get you a ladder.

DHP PRESENTS

February 2015

03 Edinburgh Electric Circus
04 Glasgow King Tut's
05 Manchester Gorilla
06 Stoke Sugarmill
07 Leeds The Key Club
08 Newcastle The Cluny
10 Huddersfield The Parish
11 Nottingham The Bodega
12 Bristol Thekla
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14 London Brooklyn Bowl
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16 Brighton Komedia
17 Guildford The Boileroom
18 Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach

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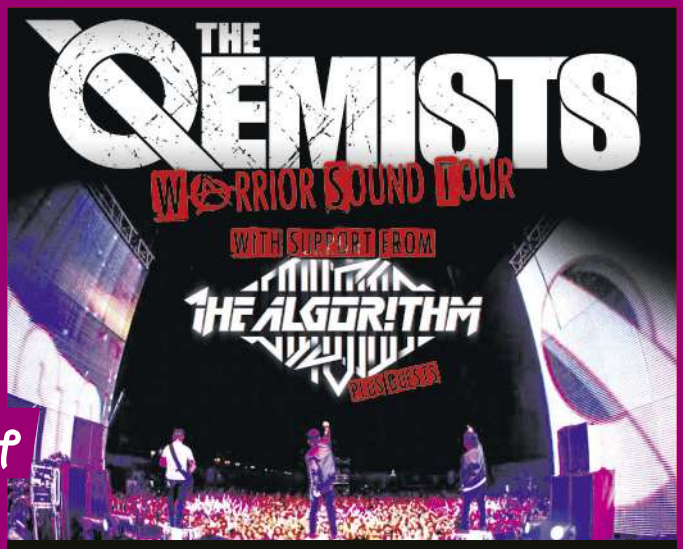

MARCH 2015

04 **BRISTOL** THEKLA
05 **LONDON** OSLO
06 **NOTTINGHAM** THE BODEGA
07 **SHEFFIELD** CORPORATION
08 **LEEDS** THE KEY CLUB
09 **GLASGOW** KING TUT'S
10 **MANCHESTER** THE SOUP KITCHEN
12 **CARDIFF** CLWB IFOR BACH
13 **BIRMINGHAM** O_2 ACADEMY
14 **BRIGHTON** CONCORDE

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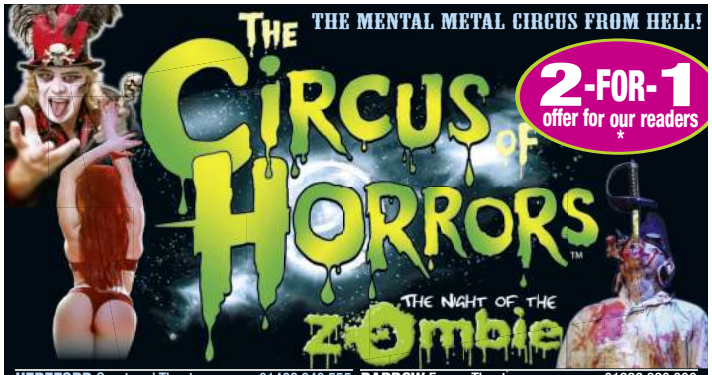

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21 JAN	courtyard.org.uk **T**	**6 FEB**	theforumbarrow.co.uk
STOKE Victoria Hall	0844 871 7649	**GREENOCK** Beacon	01475 723 723
23 JAN	ambassadortickets.com/Victoria-Hall **T**	**7 FEB**	beaconartscentre.co.uk
WOLVERHAMPTON Civic Theatre	08703 207 000	**FALKIRK** Town Hall	01334 506 850
24 JAN	wolvescivic.co.uk **T**	**8 FEB**	ticketweb.co.uk
BILLINGHAM Forum	01642 552 663	**LIVERPOOL** Empire Theatre	0844 871 3017
25 & 26 JAN	forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk	**9 FEB**	atgtickets.com/venues/liverpool-empire
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28 JAN	atgtickets.com/venues/grimsby-auditorium	**10 FEB**	prestonguildhall.com **T**
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29 JAN	sheffieldcityhall.co.uk **T**	**11 FEB**	northdevontheatres.org.uk/queens-theatre **T**
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30 JAN	eventim.co.uk **T**	**12 FEB**	bic.co.uk **T**
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31 JAN	ayrgaiety.co.uk	**13 FEB**	plymouthpavilions.com **T**
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1 FEB	alberthalls.stirling.gov.uk	**14 FEB**	kings-southsea.com
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2 FEB	northlanarkshire.gov.uk/entertainment	**16 FEB**	alexandratheatre.org.uk
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4 FEB	strathpefferpavilion.org	**17 FEB**	rosestheatre.org **T**
DUNDEE Whitehall Theatre	01382 434 940	**ROTHERHAM** Civic Theatre	01709 823621
5 FEB	whitehalltheatre.com **T**	**18 FEB**	rotherham.gov.uk/theatres **T**

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FEEDBACK

THE POSTMAN RINGS 666 TIMES!

★E-MAIL Feedback@kerrang.com ★WRITE Feedback!, PO Box 2930, London W1A 6DZ ★WEBSITE Kerrang.com

WALL! TONIGHT! SOLD-OUT!

HEY KERRANG!, I got the BVB poster special in K!1550, and I literally started crying with happiness. I love Black Veil Brides more than Kerrang! itself (no offence). But now I have a serious problem: I have NO room on my walls or ceiling for any more posters, as you can probably tell. I thought I should share my pain with you. Thanks a bunch for being awesome!

FRANCES, VIA EMAIL

Calling us awesome won't soothe the stinging wound of saying you prefer Black Veil Brides to little old us. And think big: you've got loads of room on the OUTSIDE walls for more posters!

LETTER OF THE WEEK

HI KERRANG!, I was so pleased last week when I read your interview with Ray Toro. I've been waiting forever to hear something new from him! But as happy as I am that Ray's returned, it was really sad to read that he was inspired to put it out by the tragic suicide of a 17-year-old transgender teenager. It's terrible that things like that happen, so it's really important to have inspirational people like Ray in music to help let us know that we're not alone and that we can do anything we want.

Peace, love and hope…

CHARLOTTE, BATH

We felt exactly the same way when Ray told us why he's releasing new music now. It's tragic, but hopefully Ray's music – and everyone else's – can continue to provide hope and compassion for other people going through tough times. And don't forget, if you want to talk to anyone, the Samaritans are always there to chat on 08457 90 90 90, or by emailing Jo@samaritans.org.

WIN! 5 ALBUMS OF YOUR CHOICE!

CHARLOTTE, YOUR LETTER HAS WON YOU FIVE ALBUMS OF YOUR CHOICE. OOOH, THAT'S A GOOD PRIZE. GO ON, PICK YOURSELF SOMETHING GOOD TO LISTEN TO.

A RECORD YEAR!

HIYA KERRANG!, finding out more about Sleeping With Sirens and Pierce The Veil's new albums has got me even more excited for going to see them this year! This year has so many great albums coming out, so I've been saving up my money!

FREYA, VIA EMAIL

Very wise – save money, buy new album, experience eternal joy. We're doing that in anticipation of a new Pungent Stench LP.

DO BELIEVE THE SKYPE!

HEY K!, my son Anthony has been a fan of Frank Iero since he was tiny, and when Frank played at Banquet Records, he got to finally speak to Frank on Skype! It made his day!

VIKKI, VIA EMAIL

We can't work out who's got the bigger grin going on here – Frank or Anthony. Your boy has the best hair, though, hands down. Sorry, Frank.

HEAVY METAL PET OF THE WEEK!

HI KERRANG!, check out my awesome dog, Salem (yep, coolest name ever for a dog) reading your latest issue. If you put him in your mag, my daughter Jessica would be the proudest child in the whole world!

ALI, VIA EMAIL

We think the coolest name ever for a dog would be Caninosaurus Rex, but we like where you're coming from. His mate at the bottom of the pic looks like he wants to get in on the action, too. Unless that's actually a ghost. Probably not, though.

tweets of the week

Because rockstars are obsessed with Twitter, too...

@ronnieradke
Ronnie Radke, Falling In Reverse
"Can I not post something without a bunch of motherfuckers arguing with EACH OTHER? It's like a goddamn political debate."

@AndyBVB
Andy Biersack, Black Veil Brides
"Day one back from holiday vacation: lock myself out of my house. What's up 2015!"

@nickholmespl
Nick Holmes, Paradise Lost
"Celebrations for my birthday are in full swing, just made some toast, and I'm now about to put two plates in the dishwasher."

reader tweet

@Fee2401
Fee!
"Hahaha booked another date for the @KerrangMagazine tour! Nine dates, let's do this!"

THE GALLERY

MY CHEMICAL SKETCHBOOK

HEY KERRANG!, so, I bought myself a new sketchbook, and I decided to paint it. I hope you like it!

GWENLLIAN, WALES

RENAISSANCE FORCE

HI KERRANG!, it was my birthday the other day, and as one of my presents, my friend Jess drew me this picture of Austin Carlile! I think it's amazing, and wanted to share it with you guys.

ELLA, VIA EMAIL

Win! MEET OF MICE & MEN!

It feels like aaaaages ago that we last spoke to Austin Carlile and co. In fact, they were here just before Christmas with their muckers in Linkin Park. But the buggers didn't stay around long enough for our liking! We booked a table at Wimpy for us all to have dinner and everything, but we were left hanging. But, absence makes the heart grow fonder, and we've already got our shoes on and are impatiently counting down the sleeps until OM&M hit the UK again in March. And we've got a killer treat for you: tickets to a UK show of your choice for you and a mate, plus the chance to meet the band! All you have to do is head over to Winit.kerrang.com, answer the disgustingly easy question, win, and tell the band how sad we were about the date in Wimpy.

TURN THE PAIGE...

HI KERRANG!, I thought I'd send you a picture of all my mags that I have. I have so many that I had to stand on a chair to take a picture of them all. I really love it when you put Gerard in every week – I'm speechless!

PAIGE, VIA EMAIL

That's quite the collection of pages there, Paige. Now, put them in protective bags and seal them somewhere for safekeeping. Voila, you now have a nest egg that will prove profitable in years to come when most of the world is a smoking hole and you're fighting with your neighbour for the last glass of nonradioactive water.

IS THIS YOU?

PHOTO: CHRIS CASEY

TAKING BACK SUNDAY, LONDON ROUNDHOUSE. 09.12.14

IS THIS you sporting a big smile, even though you're being squashed? Well then, you've won any album reviewed this week! To claim your album (please state your preference), send your name, address, a recent pic of yourself, and the gig ticket (both will be returned) to the address at the top of this page!

ROCK RUCK!

WHERE YOU AND A ROCK-STAR DUKE IT OUT OVER THE WEEK'S BURNING Q...

SHOULD MORE BANDS DO CO-HEADLINE TOURS?

ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW

"I think it's a really great thing for bands to do. It's amazing to think of bands doing stuff like the Spring Fever Tour we did with You Me At Six and Pierce The Veil, or Linkin Park and 30 Seconds To Mars touring together. As a fan, that's the sort of double whammy that you'd remember forever. And it's a great way for audiences to cross over as well, so they can see a band they might not normally check out do a big gig and show what they've got."

JONATHAN, VIA FACEBOOK

"It's cool when you get something like The Big Four touring together, because that's something people were wishing for for years. But bands should wait until there's a bit of a myth around the idea before doing it, I think. It's really great when big bands take amazing newer bands out on tour with them and give them the exposure. Otherwise, how are the next wave of bands going to learn how to play on a bigger stage?"

KERRANG! SAYS: Double-whammy tours like ATL and YMAS' upcoming jaunt are definitely cool – and you get more bang for your buck. But bands, don't forget about the hungry n00bs who want to blow you offstage, eh?

GOT AN OPINION? EMAIL US AT FEEDBACK@KERRANG.COM

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"I THINK IN A LOT OF WAYS WE ARE A POLITICAL BAND"

PATRICK STUMP

Pete: "Bless him, acting all hard again..."

WORDS: JENNYFER J. WALKER PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

U.(S.A) WANSUM?

FALL OUT BOY ARE CLAIMING 2015 AS THEIR OWN. JUST DON'T ACCUSE THEM OF SELLING OUT...

BANG! – a confetti cannon goes off. A split second later, BANG! – another confetti cannon goes off. Small rectangular pieces of yellow, blue, green, red and pink tissue paper briefly obscure Fall Out Boy, before floating serenely to the floor. The Chicago quartet aren't onstage playing their usual set-closer Saturday, though. It's a Monday, and they're at the Westin Tampa Bay hotel in Florida having their faces immortalised on camera.

As bassist Pete Wentz swipes the air for a rogue piece of yellow confetti, guitarist Joe Trohman is picking a chunk of glitter out of drummer Andy Hurley's slicked-back hair. Vocalist Patrick Stump, meanwhile, is crouched down, gathering up a giant handful of the rainbow concoction, which on the count of three he accidentally showers our photographer with. Over the laughter, the frontman apologises, trying to hold back a smile.

It's hard not to smile today, for Fall Out Boy are celebrating. Celebrating because this week they released their sixth album, American Beauty/American Psycho. And if you ask, they'll look you straight in the face and tell you it's their best yet.

"It's 100 per cent better [than our previous albums]," grins Pete, now sitting down in one of the hotel's meeting room suites. "All the other ones are bad – this one's good," adds Andy, with a smile.

Whether that's true or not is up for debate. What's indisputable, though, is that AB/AP was certainly the easiest album Fall Out Boy have ever made.

Unlike 2013's comeback, Save Rock And Roll – which they had a four-year hiatus to pore over – AB/AP was written quickly, with work beginning just before lead single Centuries came out September gone, while the band were on the U.S.-wide epic Monumentour with Paramore.

"The whole thing was a short experience,"

explains Patrick, pouring water for everyone at the table from a silver jug, cold with condensation. "We wrote Centuries and then instantly everyone in our circle was like, 'That's it! Let's put it out!' And I'm like, 'Well, shit, we don't have an album yet!'" he laughs. "We kinda forced a lot of inspiration, because we had to come up with something. And that was fun, because it was spontaneous. Sometimes you spend months and maybe years on a record, worrying about everything, and sometimes it's nice to just dive in, make something and worry about what it is later."

Worry checked at the cloakroom, Fall Out Boy returned from tour and recorded the rest of the album in the space of a month – a new personal best – at their friend and producer Jake Sinclair's LA studio. It was a process smoother than the stainless steel on American Psycho Patrick Bateman's knife set.

According to Patrick, the process was sped up by him and Joe making record-perfect demos at their home studios for the first time ("The demo process isn't the same anymore," he says. "These *are* the demos!"), while Joe says they figured out the best way to collaborate during the making of SRAR.

"This time around we just knew how to work better," explains the guitarist, in between bouts of coughing up a cold he's currently suffering from. "I think that comes across in the coherence of the entire album – we were on the same page without discussing what the musical page was gonna be."

With the four brains in FOB working as one, recording took place in just two to three hours per day, leaving plenty of time for relaxing, which consisted of getting coffee ("This record was especially caffeinated," says Patrick), nerding out over microphones and studio gear with their producer and, for Joe, getting baked. For the purposes of the album, of course… "I got pretty stoney baloney for recording [the title track]," he says. "It was weird, so I thought I'd get a little weird…"

If there's one word to describe the title track of Fall Out Boy's new album, it's 'weird'. And when it hit, fan reactions were as opposing as the song's title – some going crazier than a sociopath for the track's repetitive chorus and dance-party drums, and everyone else going, well, 'What the *fuck*?'

It's not just the title track that's a little more electro-sounding than FOB of old, though. If the Chicagoans saved rock and roll on the last album, American Beauty/American Psycho is them going to the club to pop the Champagne to celebrate its resurrection.

"I've heard a lot of people talk about how we've changed, and how the music now doesn't sound like [it was recorded with] instruments," says Patrick. "And I'm like, 'It's *all* instruments!' This is probably the most stripped we've ever recorded, and it's the least produced."

But it still sounds *super* pop…

"We were always pop!" exclaims the singer.

"I feel like you need to be more specific about it," adds Pete. "Sugar, We're Goin Down is a pop song. Guns N' Roses, in my mind, started as a pop band. Led Zeppelin were a boy band! If we didn't sound different as a band, we wouldn't *matter*. We wouldn't be interacting with pop culture. There's an alternate universe where FOB is doing that right now. Where FOB never made it…"

So, even Take This To Your Grave, the band's 2003 debut and arguably most 'punk' album, was a pop record?

"It was all pop!" says Patrick, bouncing in his chair with mild fury. "And everything everybody else is doing is pop, too! It's like Pete said – define it! What is pop? It's not a genre… it's not a thing that exists… it's just a word that people throw around when they're scared of change. And we're gonna change!"

"Growing up and listening to music in the '90s," imparts Joe, "bands like Metallica, when they put out the Black Album, and any bands that crossed into mainstream radio, were called sellouts. Pop's the new word for that."

"I'VE HEARD A LOT OF PEOPLE TALK ABOUT HOW WE'VE CHANGED"
PATRICK STUMP

So… you don't mind being called a pop band?

"I take it as a compliment," nods the guitarist. "When people say we're pop, or this album doesn't sound anything like our last record, it's a compliment, because at least we're doing something different."

"The whole point of Save Rock And Roll was saying that rock is going to die if it doesn't change!" adds Patrick, feistily. "If it doesn't accept that there's a future, and only looks at the past, it will be totally irrelevant. And I don't even wanna listen to that. So when we get called pop, I'm like, 'Great!'"

If Fall Out Boy truly *are* a pop band, then they win the award for Unlikeliest Pop Band Of All Time. They don't look the part, they weren't put together by record suits, and they don't have management twiddling them like puppets behind the scenes.

"In high school, Metallica was like a body armour that I wore to get me through every day," said Pete on Twitter, illustrating his teenage years – where he was an outcast kid who found his place in the Chicago hardcore scene with school buddy Joe. Meanwhile, Patrick was a record shop employee turned drummer, who Joe picked up in the book store Borders, of all places. Their rise to radio was, you could say, completely accidental.

"The wave was a tsunami, and we just happened to be the ones on the surfboard at the time," says Pete. "So it's insane that we're still able to contribute to the pop conversation. But we've never been a part of it. We've never fit in [with pop or rock music] – but that's cool. I like not fitting in."

Fall Out Boy are the Ricky Fitts of pop-rock (that's the dude with the video camera in American Beauty, non-movie buffs). They're the beautiful weirdos. Which was why, when they recorded AB/AP, their most out-there song yet, it was unanimously decided it should be released as the follow-up single to Centuries, despite the fact a video for the album's standout (and far more classically FOB) track Irresistible was ready to go.

"The title track was my favourite song when I heard it," says Andy, arms and legs crossed, twiddling his curly beard with one hand. "I like how different it is and how much of an evolution it is."

"Everybody got behind it," adds Pete, swirling his iced coffee. "It was like this rallying cry. Like, 'Here comes the fuckin' weird kid! Let's make a varsity jacket for him and put him on our shoulders.'"

"We've always been a band that wanna lead with our weird foot," adds Patrick. "Every record we've made, we go into the studio and go, 'Better put it all on tape! 'Cause this might be the last time someone pays for us to be here.' Because of that, you can't go in safe."

For Pete, AB/AP fits the dichotomy of the album and the idea of the band perfectly.

"People are like, 'Why are you so pop?' Then they're like, 'Why is AB/AP so *weird*?' It's like, 'Which is it?!' The song feels like a car driving down the highway in the wrong direction… it's like a barrage of horns and the people just don't fucking get it."

"'YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY!'" laughs Patrick. "But how do they know where we're going?"

Whether FOB are going in the wrong direction or not, such a

FIGHT THE POWER!

FOB GET POLITICAL ON AB/AP – BUT WHAT LAWS WOULD THEY PASS IF POWER WAS THEIRS?

ASSHOLE OR IDIOT!

PETE: "My first law that I'd pass is… (*laughs*) no more asshole idiots. You can be an asshole, or you can be an idiot, but you can't be both. You've gotta pick one or the other. That would be my first one. The second one would be that – and this is very selfish – at the Sugarfish, the sushi restaurant that's near me, I could go whenever I want to. Because currently they don't take any reservations!"

LEGALISE WEED!

JOE: "This is both a joke *and* serious, but I think it's about time to legalise marijuana. I just think it's about time we did, you know (*laughs*)?"

ANDY: "And I'll outlaw marijuana (*everyone laughs*)."

JOE: "My second law would be: if your name is Andy Hurley, then you automatically have to face the death penalty (*laughs*)!"

ERADICATE COMIC CONFUSION!

PATRICK: "There would be a law that all Marvel comics characters would be allowed to be in the same movie. It's just frustrating! Spider-Man should be in the Marvel movies and X-Men should be in Marvel movies. C'mon, guys! My other law would be that everybody would have mandatory empathy and think about other people's feelings. If we could science that into existence…"

"ALL OUR OTHER ALBUMS ARE BAD – THIS ONE'S GOOD"

ANDY HURLEY

We totally forgot FOB weren't caught up on Game Of Thrones

"LED ZEPPELIN WERE A BOY BAND!"

PETE WENTZ

THNKS FR TH RMNDRS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Fall Out Boy are in the Spotlight on Kerrang! Radio all this week. Tune in as we celebrate the band and play loads of our favourite tracks!

Is that your phone, Pete, or are you... oh, it's just your phone!

REVIEW ROCK AND ROLL!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

EVERY FALL OUT BOY ALBUM REREVIEWED... BY FALL OUT BOY!

TAKE THIS TO YOUR GRAVE (2003)

ANDY: "That was a great record. We took forever doing preproduction. It felt like the first big thing we ever did musically in the studio."

JOE: "It was the first time we worked in a real studio, so that was super fun. We didn't feel like we belonged, because we were scraping money together to do these songs bit by bit."

PETE: "There are moments on that record that sound a bit like a petulant child – a little juvenile – but that's okay; I feel like that's part of the progression. It's hard to look back. Without TTTYG, we'd never have made the leap to FUTCT, so it's a big part of the progression."

hard, fast turn is likely to leave some fans waving goodbye in the rear-view mirror. But the foursome are having too much fun on the ride to care.

"I'm totally at peace with the idea that there's somebody who bought our last record that's not gonna buy this one," says Patrick. "The most important thing is that we're happy doing it."

"They better buy that record, though," jokes Andy.

"A lot of times people will say, 'Why don't you write for your fans?'" adds Patrick. "And how patronising is that?! To be like, 'Here's what you want… here's what you asked for…' That's dumbing it down and assuming your audience isn't cool enough to be with you on whatever you're gonna do."

"We would be like Subway sandwich artists," smiles Pete.

"For real," laughs Patrick.

Pete Wentz might not know how to make a footlong Meatball Marinara, but he sure knows how to assemble some lyrics. And while American Beauty/American Psycho might *sound* different, lyrically it's classic Fall Out Boy. In part because it's the first time Pete's turned to his own life for inspiration since 2007's Infinity On High (bar Miss Missing You, the ode to his divorce on SRAR), most notably on the song that inspired the album's title.

"'*I dream in the shape of your mouth, but the thread count's all I really care about*' means: as much as I really want you to be here, and I think about you at night, I really want a thousand thread-count Egyptian cotton more sometimes… which is a crazy thing to think," he laughs. "There are moments in that song where I'm like, 'God bless anybody that deals with me!'"

In what ways are you hard to deal with?

"I have a ton of anxiety, and I both overprocess and have a really poor filter – I just speak from my heart, not from my head. People don't always want your most honest thoughts," he admits, fiddling with the cover of his iPhone 6 (the wallpaper of which is an adorable photo of his girlfriend and baby).

"I also think that dating a person whose job is basically to be a worldwide door-to-door salesman is a really hard thing to do."

And the person who can put up with that? They're the American Beauty to the American Psycho. While much of the album explores the threshold between those two extremes, there's also a modern romance to it.

On opening track Irresistible, this manifests in a song about being most vulnerable to the people you love – "I'm particularly attracted to people that probably have the ability to hurt me, but hopefully they don't" – while Fourth Of July is a severely honest continuation of Miss Missing You, where Pete compares the lady in the lyrics with the beauty of Versailles at night.

As well as tales of lost love, the popular culture references FOB became known for pre-hiatus have made a comeback, such as on the Quentin Tarantino-esque Uma Thurman, which features a sample taken from '60s TV show The Munsters. "It's a hyper teenage crush moment for me," explains the bassist, referring to silver-screen beauties like Uma and Winona Ryder (previously namechecked on Folie à Deux). "This woman is someone who's always just beyond your reach, but also kinda dangles in front of you."

Then there's Jet Pack Blues, inspired by another '60s show, The Jetsons. "The song was this idea that you can't ever get enough – you always ask the genie for more wishes! You have this perfect future life but you still get the blues."

While on Favourite Record and The Kids Aren't Alright, Pete says he "figured out how to write something that felt like the future of *old* FOB", something they've never quite nailed before. The title of the latter came from The Kids Are All Right the movie, not the Offspring song.

"I'm not super familiar with The Offspring, although Dexter [Holland, singer] was in a dream of mine the other night where he flew his plane and picked us up," recalls Pete. "As much as saying the kids aren't alright, it's when we *were* the kids."

Contrastingly, Novocaine was inspired by political goings-on in America, written around the time of the Trayvon Martin case (a 17-year-old African-American who was shot by a neighbourhood watch captain in February 2012). "I think it's important to write about whatever moves you – whatever challenges you and your perspective," he says.

"I think in a lot of ways we are a political band," ponders Patrick. "It's just that we don't choose to speak about it in so blunt of terms. Lyrically, we like challenging people, and allowing people to come up with their own interpretations."

"Everything is sociopolitical," offers Joe. "We deal with things that are sociopolitical, just by being a band in this world."

"I think there's also a tongue-in-cheek kind of showbiz element of it," adds the frontman. "Because a depressing amount of politics is showbiz, so there's definitely some of that nod to the camera."

Tongue-in-cheek would be the perfect way to sum up AB/AP. It's an experiment with the idea of safety and comfort. On paper, Fall Out Boy are not a band that should be on pop radio, but somehow they are, and the quartet use it to their advantage in what they're able to hide in songs – like the lyrics '*The bruises on your thighs like my fingertips*' (Centuries).

"I don't know why no-one stops us!" laughs Patrick. "So why not just push it further?'"

"We haven't done half of what I want us to do," says Pete. "I want to feel like for *once* we aren't the underdog – that we're invited in. But maybe in some ways we are the outsiders for a purpose? Maybe we are what we are for a reason, and without it we never would have made it this far."

We're glad you did, FOB. Even if it means we've got some cleaning up to do now.

AMERICAN BEAUTY/AMERICAN PSYCHO IS OUT NOW VIA ISLAND AND FALL OUT BOY TOUR IN OCTOBER

FROM UNDER THE CORK TREE (2005)

JOE: "That may have been one of the only records where we did the 'sit in a room and do preproduction with the producer' thing, musically. I remember working on Sugar, We're Goin Down, and that was really fun. You could tell there was something special about those songs."

PETE: "It was palpable. Once it was recorded, it was like drinking coffee and waiting for it to kick in. That record changed *everything* for us. FUTCT was the record where nothing was the same afterwards. It took a long time to get up to the top, but when it started going, it started going really fucking fast."

INFINITY ON HIGH (2007)

PATRICK: "I love that record. It had the potential, I think, to be our best record in many ways. I think it's a little long, but what do you cut? For me, it feels like the record where I really put everything I had into it."

PETE: "It's so interesting, because I feel like people would label *that* one of our more odd records, and I feel that was an attempt at making pop music."

JOE: "That was definitely when it became more oddball, for sure! It was definitely an attempt to widen our musical slot. We really wanted to avoid any possibility of being pigeonholed as just this one thing."

FOLIE À DEUX (2008)

JOE: "Some of our biggest ideas were on that record. For me personally, that was a time where I was like, 'I wanna be here, but *yeeeeah*, I think I wanna get the fuck out of here.' Which was weird, because I wanted to be really excited about the record, and then the more I tried to be, the more the other side of me fought against that. It was very strange."

ANDY: "I love that record. That's all I can say."

PATRICK: "As a songwriter, you write things, and when people *don't* understand them, the challenge is not feeling like it's bad. I didn't write a word on that record, but somehow that was the most personal record to me!"

SAVE ROCK AND ROLL (2013)

ANDY: "Smash! (*Everyone laughs*)."

JOE: "Smash hit!"

PATRICK: "I love that record. My only regret on it is similar in the same way that FUTCT was to me – its highs were some of our highest highs, and its lows were some of our lowest lows."

JOE: "It's, like, a little aloof. But it needed to be, because it was us coming back and doing it differently. For me, that record is really important, because I came back and I was like, 'Oh great, this band can be more of a creative outlet for me.' But it's not as fully formed and cohesive as our new record."

THE NEGA

THEY'RE CURRENTLY DECIMATING THE UK'S ARENAS AND FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS. FOLLOWING THE BIGGEST TEST OF THEIR CAREER, SLIPKNOT INVITE K! INSIDE THE BEATING HEART OF THEIR BRAND-NEW MACHINE...

Early November, 2013. Somewhere, in a guitar-lined garage in northern Florida, a phone is ringing.

Slowly, a huge hand grasps the receiver and lifts it to a heavily bearded face.

On the other end of the line: Shawn 'Clown' Crahan, the man who founded Slipknot 20 years ago in a basement in Des Moines, Iowa.

Receiving the call: Jim Root, the guitarist tasked with penning the majority of the band's new album.

"Clown called me up and was like, 'You've gotta take the ball now and run with it!'" explains Jim, as K! catch up with him in the aftermath of the all-the-Ks rated .5: The Gray Chapter, the 'Knot's fifth studio effort proper.

"Fortunately, at the time, I was in a good headspace," continues the six-stringer.

"Well, a bad headspace," he clarifies, "I had some personal shit going on in my life, but it was a good place to write for Slipknot."

"And so, every day in November, I'd wake up, make my coffee, walk to the garage and just fucking write riffs. I didn't take any old ideas from the drives. I got a brand-new hard drive, opened a brand-new folder and was like, 'Knot 2014, SK 5 demos – here we go!'"

It's out of this relatively inauspicious genesis that the gnarling, sprawling beast that is .5: The Gray Chapter eventually emerged.

The much anticipated disc was to be Slipknot's first album for six years and, perhaps more notably, their debut outing without the combined songwriting prowess of former drummer Joey Jordison and deceased bassist Paul Gray in their ranks.

Indeed, it was these combined losses which had led Clown to push new creative forces to the fore in his band with the urgency that only a founder can. Luckily for the Iowans, and despite such devastating loss in their musical engine room, they were about to witness Jim's ability to take Clown's proverbial ball several furlongs downfield first hand.

"For Jim to finally get the recognition was good, especially for him," explains frontman Corey Taylor.

"For the longest time it was always perceived that it was Paul and Joey at the centre of everything, and rightfully so; they did the majority of the work and then we'd

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

"That's him, officer! The one in the mask…"

LIVE ONES

all contribute here and there after that. But Jim would always be the one that would come in and allow Paul to go to bass instead of playing guitar, it'd allow Joey to play the drums that he would hear in his head. And Jim would put his *own* bit of sauce on it.

"Honestly, the quality of what he put together this time out was of such a standard that, by the time I got involved with the process, there was so much material that I was like, 'Fuck! Where do I even start?'"

That quality in Jim's work was buoyed not only by the rapturous reception it received from his band in the initial phases, but also the knowledge that he was, to some extent, standing on the shoulders of fallen giants.

"I don't know how Paul would actually come up with his ideas, but I'd sit with him a lot back in the day," he offers, solemnly.

"Sometimes, he couldn't find a left-handed guitar – he'd take a right-handed guitar and flip it upside down and do all kinds of weird chord intervals. So, when I was doing some of these demos – maybe two or three weeks in – I sat back and freaked out. If I was writing a song, like The One That Kills The Least, or something, I was noticing that I was trying to move all around the fretboard to try and figure out a better way, or a better interval or a new shape to the chord and stuff like that. Maybe this note's better than that note, even if it doesn't follow the scale, y'know? And I realised that that's how Paul wrote. I never did that. That kinda blew my mind – I had to put my guitar down because it was like he was there, helping me write this record. It was a little bit of a trip."

"I'D DELETE ALL HOPE IS GONE, BAR FIVE SONGS"

JIM ROOT

Gradually, and with the memory of his fallen brother firmly in his mind, Jim's home-demoing process reached the limits of its creative capacity. The time had come for him to start fleshing out his ideas alongside his bandmates. He packed his bag, loaded his motorbike onto the back of his truck, and set off for Los Angeles.

A few days later, as Jim, fellow guitarist Mick Thomson, vocalist Corey Taylor and visionary godfather Clown sequestered themselves in the City Of Angels, an unavoidable dilemma finally raised its head. Who would be the drummer to help the band work up their new material in Joey's absence?

"That question was most definitely happening. So, we tried out the one drummer that's playing with us now in LA at Studio 606, Dave Grohl's place," explains Jim.

"This kid had no idea what he was doing there, and we show up while he's warming up and he was like, 'Oh, fuck…'"

"We started throwing songs at him. He played 20-something tracks in a day without

knowing why he was there. We could have played a show that night if we'd had to, y'know. It would have been rough, but we could have done it!"

If a baptism of fire for a young sticksman is what you're after, then jamming in a room with four-ninths of Slipknot is about as hot as it gets. Especially when Clown is involved.

"There was no way I was gonna let the new drummer have one idea on his own. He had to be fucking destroyed," grimaces Clown.

"If you talk to him about the work I did, every time we looked at drums on the demo, I was in the room, helping with fills. We were so in it and I'd be like, 'Try this, try that.' He'd be like, 'What about this, what about that?' Sometimes it'd be me, sometimes him, sometimes it'd be us, sometimes it'd be Jim. I worked his ass, trying to make him a killer."

The band will admit now that what went on with their still-unnamed new drummer was tantamount to hazing – slinging him in the fire and seeing whether he came out burnt to a crisp or galvanised and stronger.

"Every band has an enforcer, and ours happens to be the Clown," laughs Corey. "Yeah, he is an absolute bulldog, but what you have to remember is that we needed someone who could not only play to the technical level that we required, but who could also fit in with all the big personalities in this band. It was necessary."

"He had to be someone passionate like we are," concurs Jim. "Someone who lives, eats and breathes it, and somebody that could learn from us and know what we are."

Slowly but surely, in that crucible of ear-mangling noise, riffs were honed further into shape and song structures sharpened and strengthened into ear-penetrating tips.

Eventually, the time came to hit the studio proper, with the entire band, now including a new bassist (who played on "six or seven songs on the album"), setting up camp at Hollywood's legendary Sunset Sound, alongside Vol. 3: (The Subliminal Verses) producer, and erstwhile Black Sabbath and Metallica knob-twiddler, Greg Fidelman.

"Of course it was hard going in without Paul and Joey," offers Corey, retrospectively. "They were such important figures in the studio, they each brought their own expertise. But we figured it out; we coped. I'll say it again, Jim really stepped up – this is the most involved he's been on any record. I think we're as strong now as we've been before."

Undeniably, this incarnation of Slipknot feels like a more technically adroit proposition than it ever has in the past – the new men making up for whatever they lack in band history with virtuosic musical expertise.

"Our new bass player is a fucking monster," grins Jim. "I mean, he's made me want to be a better player!"

"It helps that those new guys are young, too," adds Corey. "It lights a fire under your ass, creatively speaking. They're pushing us to be better, to go harder – it's a good feeling."

Yet if the band's practical abilities have gone up a few points as a result of new blood, then with age and experience has come an understanding that they function best when they work on their own terms.

"We actually had two studio spaces," explains Clown of the nine-piece's set-up. "One recording the guts, and the other one called Open Lab, where you could go if you were bored and you wanted to get arty. Out of that room alone we got XIX, Be Prepared For Hell and If Rain Is What You Want."

"That place just let everyone do their own weird stuff," explains Corey. "XIX, for example, everyone assumes that there's either bagpipes or a viola on there, but it's actually a really old synthesiser – that's the kind of experimental space it was."

And as the band settled into a comfortable purr of inspiration, collaborations began to really flourish – including from angles that might surprise fans who wonder what, for want of a better phrase, some members of Slipknot actually *do*.

"My writing style is quite different to the rest of the guys," grins DJ Sid Wilson, chipping in.

"Oi, you! Get back here this instant…"

"I WORKED THE NEW DRUMMER'S ASS TRYING TO MAKE HIM A KILLER!"

CLOWN

"I don't come from a metal background like the others, but I'm able to compose with piano and programming stuff. There was a lot of latitude for me which I think comes through on the finished product."

Jim resolutely agrees that shining a light on the band's 'background' players is a vital ingredient for the band's artistic success.

"On Subliminal Verses, I saw the process of Sid. He would go in after we finished tracking, adding bits here and there. This time I was trying to think of everything that happens in the band. I was adding in percussion, only as placeholders – nothing on my demos *had* to be like that. Clown was stoked, because him and Chris [Fehn, percussion] were able to go fucking nuts. I had the same thinking in terms of Craig [Jones, samples] and Sid."

After several months of soul-consuming work, the band were nearing completion – the next chapter in their all-conquering story with its own towering conclusion.

"With us, it's very much that old adage from movie directors that movies are never finished, they're abandoned," laughs Corey, reminiscing now about drawing .5: The Gray Chapters' studio sessions to a close.

"It's the same with our albums – we were maniacs about the details, man! For us, it's just gotta be fucking perfect. It matters. We've always said, the second it ceases to matter, that's it. We're done."

It's that obsessive, almost pathological dedication which has finally led them to a body of work that they are, to a man, cat-that-got-the-cream happy with.

"I love this record," begins Clown. "We put absolutely everything into it…"

"I'm so, so proud of it," agrees Corey. "Personally, I think it's my strongest writing, my strongest vocal performance, and there's a confidence there that comes from experience and passion. I adore pretty much everything on this album. I haven't stopped listening since the demo stages, and I still listen to it."

And then, from Jim, a startling admission about where he sees the 'Knot's latest opus in their iconic back catalogue.

"If I was to put our albums in chronological order, I would just delete All Hope Is Gone, except for maybe five songs, and then slide this right after Subliminal Verses.

"I kinda felt like we got cheated with All Hope Is Gone, as far as our 'process' of how we do things as a band goes. That was the most separated we've ever been and the producer couldn't even get nine of us in a room together. There was a lot of internal unhappiness and it was just a really fucking bad experience. Now you come to this record, .5, we have a situation where we're all communicating and we're good, and people have grown up. Nobody's fucked-up or freaking out; we're focused like a well-oiled machine. Everybody's talking, we're hashing shit out."

For Corey, too, it is a standout moment in a career which seems – from the outside at least – full-to-bursting with standout moments.

"This is the first Slipknot album since the first one that I've been able to listen to right away, y'know," he admits, to our amazement.

"It took me years to get through Iowa and, to this day, I can't listen to Vol. 3… I was freshly sober then and I really didn't like the tone of my voice at the time. Even All Hope Is Gone is hard for me to take in, because of all the turmoil and drama that was going on at the time. There's some great songs on there, but it's tough. This one's a different story…"

A different story it most certainly is – that of a long-established band striving forward under the stewardship of an unfamiliar regime. Re-imagining what Slipknot's sound really is, represents and *means* today. New personnel. New horizons. A new start.

For Clown, the man who made the phone call and got the ball rolling all those months ago, the analogy is a simple one: "We're on a different level now. I hate to compare it to a sport, but you could be watching the Dallas Cowboys for five years and love your quarterback, then all of a sudden he gets drafted for more money and he's off the team. But that doesn't stop 60,000 people still going down to the game and supporting the Cowboys, does it?"

And for Slipknot, the game plan has only ever been a simple one. Take the ball, and run with it as far as you can.

.5: THE GRAY CHAPTER IS OUT NOW VIA ROADRUNNER. SLIPKNOT ARE TOURING THE UK RIGHT NOW AND THEY HEADLINE DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL IN JUNE

PSYCHO CIRCUS

FIVE CLASSIC CLOWN MOMENTS THAT OPEN THE DOOR TO HIS MIND…

"Put our band against any band – especially fucking Oasis. They're a couple of punk-ass bitches. They ain't The Beatles. They blow!"

"I love it when people try and make fundamental assumptions of us like, 'Oh, I thought Slipknot were finished.' Get the fuck over it!"

"No-one's figured out it's the same two girls in The Devil In I and The Negative One… that's how many rabbit holes there are! It's that deep."

"If you think this is a 'comeback' album, you need to remember the fact that we're the greatest fucking band in the world."

"No-one has even figured out half the intricacies of .5 yet, man. Seriously. I call them parallel themes and people will start recognising things… song to song, with time."

‘Would I have made it without the MU? Probably. If I was starting out again, would I still join? Definitely.’

—

‘The MU has been around even longer than me. Helping musicians of all ages and genres. Let’s make sure they continue to do so.

—

Jimmy Page

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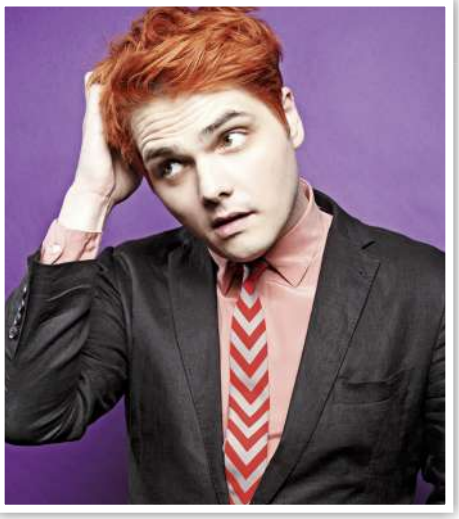
SHOTS!

FOR WALLS MORE ROCK THAN A CLIFF FACE

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS

They say all musicians go through phases, and it looks like Kellin Quinn's reached his Jailhouse Rock years – perfectly timed with Elvis turning 80. Either that, or he's just had a lie-down on a zebra crossing. Which, by the way, we do not recommend you try at home…



GERARD WAY

"I was just testing my lights when I took this shot of Gerard," says Kerrang! photographer Paul Harries. "Sometimes the off-guard moments make the best photographs." Really, Paul? Those photos our iPhone takes in our pocket never really come out that great.

AVENGED SEVENFOLD

Ever wondered what M. Shadows wears on the weekends? Well, now you know! Camo shorts and a check shirt is the uniform of a man going to B&Q to pick up some new decking. We're just being silly, of course – rockstars don't lay their own decking.

AC/DC

Ahhhh, a new shot of a classic Angus Young pose. He's got the guitar, the arm up and, of course, his standard school uniform. You've got to hand it to the man, he's basically been keeping Marks & Spencer in business with all the money he's spent in their Back To School department.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

"This was shot just before the band's rearranged Cardiff show. They're always so much fun to shoot – normally I have to stop myself from laughing," says photographer Ian Collins. What were y'all laughing about, Ian? "It wouldn't be suitable for print…" Er, we'll just leave that there, then.

TWIN ATLANTIC

"After I shot the guys with their Great Divide flags, Sam needed a nice sit down," says Paul Harries of this feature shoot outtake. We waved a flag once and it knocked us out for five days solid, so we know where Sam McTrusty's coming from. Poor little sausage.

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

PHOTO: PA

KERRANG!

Avenged Sevenfold

KERRANG!
AC/DC
Angus Young
Gibson

PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

KERRANG!

A Day To Remember

KERRANG!

Twin Atlantic

Sam McTrusty

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

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FOUR T-SHIRT DESIGNS MADE EXCLUSIVELY BY ROCKSTARS!

ENTER SHIKARI

TALE BEHIND THE TEE

ROU REYNOLDS: "The idea for the chimney sweep came from seeing American fashion. We've been touring America and seeing the cheesy American sloppy men, and it's so fun to play on that classic stereotype of English people. It's just fun doing that cheeky, chimney sweep kind of 'Hello guv'nor' type of thing. It's just a fun, nonsensical bit of a laugh, really."

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I'VE COLLECTED 10 K! TOKENS AND I WANT A T-SHIRT DESIGNED BY:
❑ All Time Low
❑ A Day To Remember
❑ Sleeping With Sirens
❑ Enter Shikari

IN THE FOLLOWING SIZE:
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❑ Medium
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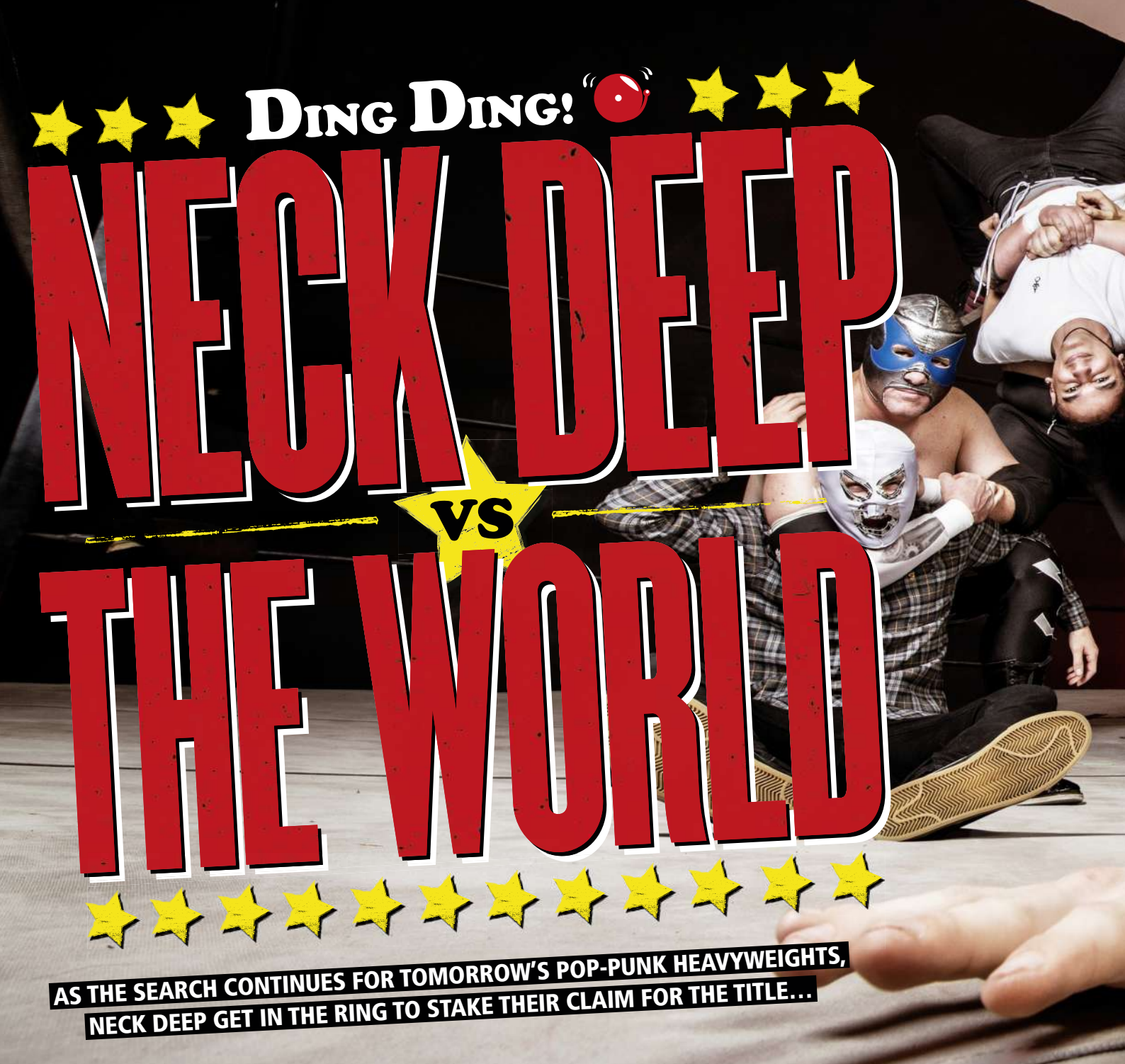


DING DING!

NECK DEEP VS THE WORLD

AS THE SEARCH CONTINUES FOR TOMORROW'S POP-PUNK HEAVYWEIGHTS, NECK DEEP GET IN THE RING TO STAKE THEIR CLAIM FOR THE TITLE…

Ben Barlow is in trouble. Neck Deep in trouble, you might say. A seven-foot-tall guy called Moose has got the frontman in an ankle hold and is dragging him around the ring.

Ben's eyes desperately dart around, searching for one of his bandmates to help him out. But bassist Fil Thorpe-Evans and guitarists Lloyd Roberts and Matt West are all in similar predicaments. Drummer Dani Washington has it even worse: he's currently being sat on by a shirtless dude who's built like a bulldozer.

But just when it looks as if Britain's brightest pop-punk prospects are out for the count, a bell rings and the band are released. Because this isn't a real tear-up, this is wrestling school, Florida-style.

Neck Deep are here to learn some moves ahead of their imminent, wrestling-themed Intercontinental Championships package tour – their biggest UK dates so far. And, as they dust themselves down and compare bruises, Ben manages to summon up some bravado.

"Who's the best wrestler out of us?" he ponders. "Me! That's the attitude you've got to have, right? You can't go into wrestling saying everyone else is the best, you've got to be your own biggest fan. I'll smash 'em…" And with that, he leaps back into the ring, attempts to get Moose in a hold of his own… and falls on his arse.

Ben Barlow has never been afraid to fall over, but he hasn't always been so good at talking himself up. At school in Wrexham, he was a classic inbetweener – neither hugely popular nor an outcast. If he had a role, he says, it was as class clown. "I liked taking the piss out of people, but in a nice way."

He'd escape from the mundanity of his life through his two great passions: pop-punk and WWE Wrestling. Both were populated by exotic American superheroes. Both were loud, brash and fun. But only one could be re-enacted on his mate's parents' waterbed.

"That was the site of a fair few wrestling matches," he grins. "My mum's bed definitely saw many powerbombs and Batista Bombs."

Ben's hopes of a career in the WWE were shattered, however, one day in his parents' garage. Ben's brother did gymnastics, and his gym mats had been pressed into service as a makeshift ring by Ben and his mates, only for one kid to go in too hard with the old tombstone piledriver.

"Injury put me out of the game," he sobs. "I retired, aged 11." The final straw came, however, when he attended a wrestling match in Wrexham, only to find it was a "rubbish, rip-off" British version of his beloved sport. The dream was over and, from that day, learning guitar took over from studying his elbow drops.

But then, until recently, British pop-punk had a similar reputation to British wrestling: as a low-rent, less-glamorous take on its American counterpart. That that's no longer the case is due in large part to Neck Deep's heroics. They might have formed less than three years ago, but last year they hit the hottest streak since The Rock won the World Heavyweight Championship eight times.

Having released debut album Wishful Thinking at the start of the year, they

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND **PHOTO:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY
THANKS TO CHASYN RANCE, I BELIEVE IN WRESTLING SCHOOL - TEAM VISION DOJO, ORLANDO, FL

Neck Deep

If Neck Deep were a tag team, they'd be CM Pop-Punk (ba-dum-tish!)

played 164 shows throughout 2014, including biggest-ever headline dates in the UK, U.S. and Australia. They won the Kerrang! Award for Best British Newcomer, conquered Slam Dunk and Reading & Leeds festivals and, in a coals-to-Newcastle type scenario, were the absolute sensations of last year's Warped Tour U.S..

"A lot of dreams came true," says Ben. "Even the ultimate dream."

That arrived when Neck Deep supported blink-182 at London's O2 Academy Brixton, something Ben had harboured as an ambition since he first heard Take Off Your Pants And Jacket, aged six.

"Playing with blink was the ultimate crowning achievement," he enthuses. "Which is why it was so weird. Did my Number One bucket list thing actually happen? Yes, it did!"

Did it give you any insight into life at the top of the pop-punk pyramid?

"Kind of," he grins, "but I don't think I can comprehend that at this point. I've only set foot on a tour bus once, let alone own one!"

Ben might have to get used to it, however. An arena date with All Time Low beckons, and Neck Deep will have no choice *but* to take another great leap forward.

They're not just here in Florida to work on their chokeholds: they're recording the tougher, more mature follow-up to Wishful Thinking's fizzing, feel-good anthems, with A Day To Remember's Jeremy McKinnon co-producing and giving Ben songwriting tips ("he's super easy to work with"). They're booked in for a return stint on Warped Tour. And then there's this month's long-awaited homecoming, their first dates here since Reading & Leeds.

"WE'RE GOING TO WIN THE TITLE!"

Ben Barlow

In wrestling terms, then, 2015 is the year Neck Deep should go from number one contenders to undisputed champs. And Ben knows it.

"That's the plan," he says. "We're going to take it to the next level and win that fucking title. All we need is that chance, that WrestleMania main event."

Ben is not one of life's natural trash-talkers. But he has no doubt the new album will open a can of whoopass on all other contenders.

"We know that we've smashed it," he says. "We know that we wrote a fucking banger of an album. We're confident."

But he also knows that rock'n'roll isn't wrestling. There's no script and the good guys don't always win. And, while he's aware some may be suspicious of Neck Deep's rapid ascent, he also knows that, if they are crowned pop-punk champions, they'll deserve it.

"More work goes in than people give you credit for," he insists. "Look at how many shows we've played: relentless touring is hard work. We're never unapproachable rockstars – we're just dudes in a band that came from the same place all our fans are at. And if you want to battle that, then step up."

And with that fighting talk, he gets back in the ring. Watch out, world, Neck Deep's plan to bring the pop-punk smackdown to the planet starts here.

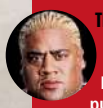
NECK DEEP TOUR THE UK FROM JANUARY 26

★Ben Barlow's★ ULTIMATE WARRIOR

THE KEY INGREDIENTS TO BEN'S PERFECT WRESTLER!

THE CHARISMA AND ATTITUDE OF... 'Stone Cold' Steve Austin
"He just gave a 'fuck you' to the world: never a singular fuck, ever. He'll crack a beer over your head and just walk around flipping everyone off."

THE BODY OF... Randy Orton
"He's ripped. His neck is the size of my entire body – it's the width of my stomach! That's why he can be called Randy – people go, 'Ha-ha, Randy Orton, you're an absolute… oh god, actually, I'd better not, sorry, mate!'"



THE MOVES OF... Rikishi
"He's got a finishing move called the Stink Face, where you basically put your arse in their face and make them smell your bum. It's the worst yet funniest move of all time."

APPETITE FOR COLLECTION

POO THE BED! HOT TOPIC HAVE JUST UNVEILED THEIR LIMITED EDITION MCR VINYL REISSUES, SO WE THOUGHT WE'D ROUND UP THE RARE RELEASES *EVERYONE* WISHES THEY OWNED. GET A BIB ON AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS!

NIRVANA

LOVE BUZZ

AKA the song that introduced us to Nirvana! The 7" singles are worth big money now, though watch out for counterfeits. The sleeve should be hand-numbered in a thin red felt pen by someone left-handed. Apparently.

BATHORY

BATHORY

Originally requested in gold, the first 1,000 pressings of Bathory's debut featured a yellow goat to keep costs down. Frontman Quorthon wasn't impressed, insisting it be changed. And a collector's item was born!

RAMMSTEIN

LIEBE IST FÜR ALLE DA (DELUXE BOX SET)

It might not seem obvious, but releasing your sixth album is a big deal. That's why Rammstein produced a metal flight case stuffed with pink sex toys, allegedly modelled on each band 'member'. S&M newcomers, fear not: lube is included.

AVENGED SEVENFOLD

HAIL TO THE KING TREASURE BOX

Finally, treasure you don't need a bleedin' map to find! This set even comes with its own Death Bat Skeleton Key and Challenge Coin. The A7X website states 'once they are gone no more will be made'. Considering they're limited edition, we believe that falls in the 'No shit, Sherlock' category.

BLACK VEIL BRIDES

WRETCHED AND DIVINE: THE STORY OF THE WILD ONES ULTIMATE BLACK BOX EDITION

Hands up if you've ever wanted your own Black Veil Brides rosary? Well look no further. This set comes with extra tracks, plus the Legion Of The Black DVD and an expanded booklet. Admittedly you could just pick up some beads next time you visit your local market, but Andy wouldn't approve of that now, would he…

BRING ME THE HORIZON

THIS IS WHAT THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT WAS MADE FOR

Granted, it was a very bold title indeed for a first release, perhaps even a bit arrogant, but boy were they onto something. The original release by Thirty Days Of Night Records now goes for £50. Which is pretty bonkers for just a CD.

PARAMORE

AIN'T IT FUN 'BROKEN RECORD'

Do you ever get the feeling that vinyl can sometimes be a bit… well, *predictable*? Black and round. We get it. Paramore decided to melt our brains with this awesome 12" for Record Store Day 2014, which looks like a passing velociraptor took a huge chunk out of it in a bout of jealous rage. Still works, though!

METALLICA

LIVE SHIT: BINGE & PURGE

The Holy Grail of 'Tallica products: originally released in 1993 as a cardboard flight case containing tracks recorded on the Nowhere Else To Roam tour, plus live footage and a black T-shirt (you can never have too many). Not to mention handwritten notes, a Snakepit pass (doesn't work, we tried) and a Scary Guy stencil.

MOTÖRHEAD

THE COMPLETE EARLY YEARS SET

It's the kind of purchase that will give your cat nightmares for the rest of its life. This set boasts 16 discs covering all releases between '77 and '84, as well as rare singles and EPs. But the best bit is the giant warpig head with flashing red eyes. Lemmy wasn't impressed to hear about its extortionate price tag: "I would advise against it, even for the most rabid completists." You could even say it was overkill!

SEX PISTOLS

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

If you manage to find an original acetate pressing of God Save The Queen next time you raid your dad's vinyl in the attic, consider yourself eight grand richer. The original 1977 vinyl run is the kind of item drooled over and coveted by music fanatics around the world who will bite your hand off. Now, where did we leave our eBay log-in details?

IRON MAIDEN

'ED CASE

Who better to guard your precious Iron Maiden albums than Eddie himself? Burglars and thieves beware, this is not something to be messed with. Take the TV, have the sofa, but touch the Maiden goodies and Eddie *will* be forced to come and get you. Maybe there and then. Maybe in your sleep. Who knows. The 'Ed Case comes with all nine reissued albums from the 1980 self-titled debut onwards, live material and expanded booklets. Finding one could be a right 'edache, though!

GREEN DAY

1,000 HOURS EP

Recorded in 1988 when Billie Joe was just 16 years of age and the band were still called Sweet Children, the limited vinyl run of Green Day's recording debut have now become highly sought after. Lookout! Records owner Larry Livermore disagreed with the name change, but we're with Billy Joe on this. Green Day sounds *way* cooler.

MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE

DANGER DAYS: CALIFORNIA 2019 EDITION

How many box sets can you think of that come with a ray gun? Okay, it might not actually shoot lasers (you have to use your imagination a bit), but it's still *way* cooler than all the box sets that *don't* come with polyresin weapons fit for cosmic battles and intergalactic domination. But it doesn't stop there – you also get a mask, a wooden bracelet and a book. Think about how many hours you could kill? £400 well spent!

Win!

THANK YOU FOR THE... VINYL

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WORDS: AMIT SHARMA

WEDDING THRASHERS

FOLLOWING THE NEWS OF HAYLEY WILLIAMS AND CHAD GILBERT'S ENGAGEMENT, WE THOUGHT WE'D TAKE YOU DEEP INSIDE THE WEIRD WORLD OF ROCK WEDDINGS…

The world of rock went all gooey round the edges this Christmas, when Paramore's Hayley Williams and New Found Glory's Chad Gilbert announced their engagement.

Hayley tweeted a picture of her and Chad photoshopped onto a bride and groom, the likes of Pete Wentz and Taylor Swift sent congratulations and pop-punk wedding planners everywhere started dreaming of getting their hands on the no-doubt stratospheric hair dye budget for Hayley's wedding look.

But if Chayley – as we must surely now call them – need ideas for their big day, let's hope they don't go looking through the long and fabled history of rockstar weddings. Because most of the guitar-toting types to get hitched seemed to have watched Guns N' Roses' decadent, wedding-themed November Rain video and thought it was a documentary.

Indeed, Axl Rose took it all so seriously he actually got engaged to Stephanie Seymour, the model who played his not-so-blushing bride in that video. Sadly, they never made it to the altar, so we didn't get to see whether Slash really would have left the ceremony to play a blistering guitar solo in the desert.

Nonetheless, excess and erratic behaviour are often the key components of the rockstar wedding.

When Axl got hitched in 1990 – to Erin Everly, the inspiration for Sweet Child O' Mine – he apparently turned up at her house the day before the nuptials with a gun. Unsurprisingly, their marriage was annulled less than a year later and in 2013 she auctioned off their wedding video. Ouch.

Axl's GN'R bandmate Slash had more luck. His 2001 wedding in Hawaii to Perla Ferrar was a relatively low-key affair, despite Slash wearing leather trousers *and* a leather jacket for the ceremony. But they made up for it when renewing

"C'mon, dude, the invite clearly said no hats!"

Samantha definitely looks happy with her 'Big Ben'

"MARRIAGE CHANGES THINGS"

MARILYN MANSON

their vows in Ibiza 10 years later, with a party that featured the bride wearing a mini top hat in tribute to her groom, and even a hot-air balloon ride.

Sadly, even Slash and Perla have now split, but they lasted longer than most. The motto for rockstar weddings often seems to be "marry in haste, repent in even more haste" – but, despite many musical unions heading for the divorce courts in record time, that doesn't seem to stop anyone making grand gestures.

These often start with the proposal: blink-182's Travis Barker paid off a staff member so he could propose to model/actress Shanna Moakler in private in the lift at Disneyland's Haunted Mansion. And Kid Rock proposed to serial rock wife Pamela Anderson by driving her to the desert on a motorbike, where his musical cohort Uncle Kracker was waiting in a pink Cadillac, dressed as Elvis, with the ring. When they got married in 2006, they had three separate ceremonies in St Tropez, Beverly Hills and Nashville, and it *still* only lasted four months.

The actual weddings are even more hedonistic. When Ozzy Osbourne married Sharon in 1982 in Hawaii – the go-to location for rockstar nuptials – the wedding cake contained no fewer than seven bottles of Hennessy cognac and Ozzy ended the evening passed out in the corridor outside the honeymoon suite.

And when Nickelback's Chad Kroeger got hitched to Avril Lavigne in the south of France in 2013, they celebrated for three days straight. "I don't remember much of that," admitted Avril. Which is maybe just as well.

There's nothing marrying rockstars like more than a theme. Marilyn Manson and Dita Von Teese had a (surprise surprise) Gothic theme, while Pete Wentz's nuptials to pop bride Ashlee Simpson were inspired by Alice In Wonderland.

Despite marrying Samantha Cassaro in North Carolina, Asking Alexandria's Ben Bruce made sure everything about his wedding reminded him of home. His jacket featured the Union Jack, British sweets were served at the buffet and the cake was shaped like Big Ben. By which we mean the landmark, not the guitarist.

Wild animals also feature heavily. Dave Navarro's wedding to Carmen Electra in 2003 was disrupted by squawking parrots, Pete Wentz' English bulldog acted as his ringbearer and Bush's Gavin Rossdale was escorted by his Hungarian sheepdog when he married No Doubt's Gwen Stefani in 2002 (which may explain why Gwen turned up an hour late). Nothing can compare to Good Charlotte's Joel Madden and Nicole Richie's 2010 ceremony, however, which actually featured a live elephant in the room. It's okay, though: nobody talked about it.

With so much Bride/Groomzilla-ing going on, it's no wonder some rockstars go to the other extreme and keep things spontaneous and low-key. Gerard Way married Lyn-Z of Mindless Self-Indulgence backstage at a gig in Denver in 2007. My Chemical Romance weren't even headlining: Linkin Park topped the bill. Anthrax's Scott Ian wore Bermuda shorts for his big day with Pearl Aday, although sadly the views of his new father-in-law, a Mr Meat Loaf, on his attire were not recorded.

Meanwhile, Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and Hole's Courtney Love may have married in Hawaii in 1992, but it was a simple ceremony attended by just eight people, including Dave Grohl. Kurt didn't bother to get dressed: he just wore his pyjamas. Mötley Crüe's Tommy Lee married Pamela Anderson on a beach in Mexico in 1996, just 96 hours after meeting her. He celebrated by throwing his new bride into the sea – it was okay, though, she was wearing a bikini.

Despite such precedents, however, some rockstar weddings turn out to be classy affairs. Marilyn and Dita's bash – featuring skeet shooting, archery and falconry – was posh enough to feature in Vogue.

And Benji Madden showed that anything Joel could do, his twin could do better, by marrying Cameron frickin' Diaz at the start of this year in a fairytale ceremony. Ryan Adams and Lionel Richie played live and Drew Barrymore was a bridesmaid.

And there's the magic of the rockstar wedding: fantasy over reality, no expense spared and hardly anyone getting to live happily ever after. So, if Chayley tie the knot on a beach, wearing scuba gear, with Chad's goldfish as best man, don't be surprised. For better or worse, for richer or poorer, that's just how rock weddings roll.

Boulevard of BROKEN DREAMS

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

INVESTIGATING WHEN ROCKSTAR WEDDINGS GO WRONG...

MARILYN MANSON & DITA VON TEESE

Despite seemingly being made for each other, Mazza and Dita split just one year after marrying in Ireland. "It's that old cliché," said Manson. "Marriage changes everything. I came out of this naked, a featherless bird." He got his "wings back" by making 2007's Eat Me, Drink Me album, and began dating actress Evan Rachel Wood.

TRAVIS BARKER & SHANNA MOAKLER

Nowadays it's all about unfollowing each other on Twitter, but Travis and Shanna's 2006 split played out on MySpace, as they traded blogs about who was to blame for the end of their two-year marriage. Shanna even threw herself a "divorce party", featuring a cake with a bride holding a knife and a groom covered in blood. Then they (briefly) got back together. Awks.

PETE WENTZ & ASHLEE SIMPSON

The fantasy soon turned into a nightmare. Pete has since blamed his addiction to prescription drugs and difficulty coping with the FOB hiatus.

CHAD KROEGER & AVRIL LAVIGNE

Chavril's 2013 Hello!-featured union gave us so much: a Kerrang! commemorative plate, a Hallowe'en-costume related spat between Chad and the first Mr Avril, Sum 41's Deryck Whibley, and, of course, Avril's weird Let Me Go video, where she appears to be haunted by her own husband. But now it seems like there's nothing left to give, with rumours of a split (although Chad dismissed them as "amusing").

TOMMY LEE & PAMELA ANDERSON

When things went wrong for Tommy and Pammy, they *really* went wrong. Their honeymoon video ended up as the most notorious sextape of all time, she had him jailed for abuse, and accused him of giving her hepatitis. Even so, they reunited and broke up a couple more times.

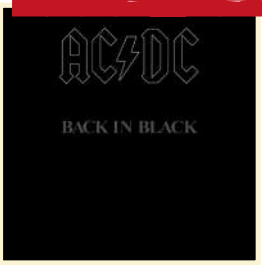
WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND
PHOTOS: CORBIS, JUSTINE MILTON: WWW.MILTON-PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

THE SONGS TH

SAVED MY LIF

LZZY WROTE A SONG CALLED I GET OFF. BUT ON WHAT? TELL US RIGHT AWAY!
OH, RIGHT, ALL THIS STUFF. WELL THEN, MS HALE, CARRY ON…

THIS WEEK: LZZY HALE, HALESTORM



THE SONG THAT MAKES ME THINK OF HOME IS…

YOU SHOOK ME ALL NIGHT LONG, AC/DC

"There's a bar called The Red Lion Tavern that's right down the street from the last place I lived with my parents. It's this dirty little rock bar, and we used to play acoustic shows there because there was no room for a drum kit. We started playing a Heart song and a huge fight broke out. One of the bartenders said, 'Quick, do you guys know any AC/DC?' So we played this – so it took AC/DC to subdue the fight that had started because we'd played a ballad by Heart."

FIND IT: Back In Black (1980)

THE SONG I WOULD LIKE TO COVER IS…

BLACK CAT, JANET JACKSON

"Without mentioning any names, I was just talking about this with a very famous female friend of mine. We both have a mutual guilty pleasure for Janet Jackson, and she said, 'Look, if you ever cover this song, I'm coming over and doing it with you.' So I'm pretty sure that will happen at some point in time."

FIND IT: Rhythm Nation 1814 (1989)

THE SONG THAT MADE ME THE MOST CASH IS…

ROSE IN DECEMBER, HALESTORM

"I'm going to go back to the tip jar days, when we used to play bars and have a tip jar that would help pay for our gas. This was a ballad, very cheesy, which was written when I was about 17 years old and listening to a lot of Journey. Whenever we played this song, people would come up and put money in the tip jar – we had a good $250 in there! We also played a funeral once and got paid $50 a song for that. We didn't know the guy, and it was very strange because we were right in front of the casket. Every time we stopped, people were just bawling their eyes out."

FIND IT: Breaking The Silence EP (2001)

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO BE A MUSICIAN IS…

I WANT YOU TO WANT ME, CHEAP TRICK

"I must have been about five or six years old, and my dad took me to see Cheap Trick at a festival in Pennsylvania. I only remember glimpses of actually doing that and seeing them play, but I do remember stopping off at my grandparents' house on the way home. I got up on their covered Jacuzzi and used it as a stage while I pretended to be the singer [Robin Zander]. My grandmother took pictures, so there's documentary evidence of the first time I pretended to be in a band."

FIND IT: In Color (1977)

THE SONG WITH THE GREATEST LYRICS IS…

EVERYBODY HERE WANTS YOU, JEFF BUCKLEY

"This is actually kinda creepy, because the narrator in the song is sort of stalking somebody else and watching them walk around at a party. It's got a line that I've always loved that goes, *'I'll be waiting right here just to show you / How our love will blow it all away'*. I think that's so romantic – but coming from the 'I Get Off' girl, that might not be saying too much!"

FIND IT: Sketches For My Sweetheart The Drunk (1998)

THE SONG I WISH I HADN'T RECORDED…

YOU AND I COULD FLY, HALESTORM

"We didn't really know what we were doing in the studio back then. We were basically going in at a set rate per hour, and I ended up forgetting all the harmony parts. I'm still proud of all the stuff we did when we were kids, because it proves that we were out there, but I didn't necessarily make the world a better place by recording this song."

FIND IT: (Don't Mess With The) Time Man (1999)

THE BEST SONG EVER WRITTEN IS…

FAT BOTTOMED GIRLS, QUEEN

"At the time, this was so risqué. It was sexy, but it was also off the beaten path, and I love Queen for always making sure that they took the path less travelled. It's really well written and just a perfect pop-rock song."

FIND IT: Jazz (1978)

THE LAST SONG I LISTENED TO IS…

CHILD IN TIME, DEEP PURPLE

"We went to a bar last night and they had a

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

HAT

E...

A SECRET ABOUT ONE OF MY SONGS IS...

BET U WISH U HAD ME BACK, HALESTORM

"I was dating this guy once and it turned out he was seeing somebody else at the same time. Some time later, I ended up meeting this girl randomly, in the bathroom at a concert. We got talking and both figured out that each of us was 'the other girl', and I ended up writing a song. Fast-forward a couple of years and I saw this guy again, and he told me that this was his favourite song. I never did tell him what it was about – that would just be mean to ruin it for someone like that."

FIND IT: Halestorm (2009)

jukebox in there, so I put on all of my favourite songs and pretty much emptied the place! The last song was Child In Time by Deep Purple, which goes on for about 15 minutes and has these crazy high notes at the end. I can thank my dad for introducing me to this song."

FIND IT: In Rock (1970)

THE SONG YOU'D BE SURPRISED I LOVE IS...

GORILLA, BRUNO MARS

"I love Bruno Mars so much that I don't really consider this a guilty pleasure, but some people might put it in that category. Ever since he came out, he's been one of those dudes that could do anything in any genre and his voice would transcend all of those lines. There was one time in Jackson, Mississippi, when we ended up going to a strip club because two girls came to the show and took us back to their place of business. One girl was attempting to give me a lap dance to this!"

FIND IT: Unorthodox Jukebox (2012)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY IS...

PAGAN POETRY, BJÖRK

"The last time I listened to this, it was about 4am and I'd probably had a little bit too much to drink, and that was the last time I cried to a song. Sigur Rós can have the same effect. There's just something about the way Björk constructs the songs so beautifully, with the melancholic, Icelandic view of the world. It just seems to open up an emotional back door in your brain."

FIND IT: Vespertine (2001)

LIVES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FOO

KKKKK = CLASSIC KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD KK = AVERAGE K = POOR

FOO FIGHTERS

FORUM, LOS ANGELES. 10.01.15

KKKKK

DAVE GROHL THROWS HIMSELF THE BEST BIRTHDAY PARTY EVER

WORDS: HAILEY HASKELL **PHOTOS:** GETTY

"LADIES AND gentlemen, welcome to the best fucking birthday party anyone could ever have!"

Most people celebrate their 46th birthday by gathering together a few friends for drinks or by spending time with family. Which is what Dave Grohl has *sort of* done. Although we can't think of anyone else who's rung in their big four-six (that classic milestone…) with a party for 17,500 people and a top table of rock legends.

"You might think this is a fucking Foo Fighters show, right?" yells Dave in greeting. "Welcome to the craziest fucking night of your entire fucking life! I had this idea – I thought, 'You know what? I'm gonna invite some of my friends to come play with us tonight.' So, just so ya'll know, it's gonna be a long fucking night."

And then, with a promise to "start this shit off right", Paul Stanley from Kiss emerges for a romp through Detroit Rock City and Do You Love Me. And this is just the *start* of the evening.

All My Life, The Pretender, My Hero, and Rope whiz by, before, oh, only Tenacious D and Slash arrive to sing Happy Birthday to Dave – complete with a balloon avalanche – before segueing into Queen's Tie Your Mother Down. Wanna follow that? How about Alice Cooper joining the lads for School's Out? One-time QOTSA bass loon Nick Oliveri arriving for a bash through Roky Erikson's psych classic Two Headed Dog (Red Temple Prayer)? A constantly rotating stage in the middle of the arena? Yep, yep and yep.

"Now here's something I don't normally fucking do – it's called the bass guitar," announces Dave. "I don't know how to play this thing."

So, who's playing guitar? OH RIGHT, it's fellow birthday boy Zakk Wylde – "The most badass, shredding, ripping fucking guitar player I've ever seen in my entire life" – to play a cover of Black Sabbath's N.I.B. like a pair of excited children.

Times Like These and Outside from the Foos' own arsenal get an airing, before Jane's Addiction frontman Perry Farrell joins them onstage to snake his way through Mountain Song and Rolling Stones cover Miss You, making a little time for Dave to chug a bottle of champers with the crowd.

"I don't even know what the fuck we could do after that! That's the craziest shit I've seen in my life," announces Dave. Then he figures it out, and the original Diamond Dave, David Lee Roth from Van Halen, appears like a cheeky ball of swag to sass his way through VH party stompers Panama and Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love.

You want *more* as an encore? We're already feeling a little greedy, but before he blows out the candles on the celebration, Dave takes a bow with Chuck Berry's Let it Rock with Lemmy, Slash and Zakk Wylde. And he's never had a bigger smile.

The best fucking birthday party ever? It makes pizza and bowling look a bit shit, really…

Dave and Zakk were big fans of Lemmy's stand-up routine

All that money, and Dave and Alice still had to share a sweater

Hi, catering? Dave's M&M's have arrived

The Dave convention: always a big hit

The game of 'Stanley Says' got off to a good start

Dave was going to have trouble blowing out all those candles in one go

HERE COME DAVE'S HEROES

THAT GUESTLIST IN FULL...

ALICE COOPER
The man who shocked America by getting decapitated onstage every night. Wayne's World legend. Snake charmer. Deadly golfer.

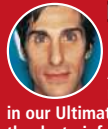
LEMMY
Motörhead frontman and lord of loud. Longtime Grohl cohort. The indestructible superman we're all looking to to save the world.

SLASH
Ultra-cool, hat-loving, Stoke-on-Trent-born ex-Guns N' Roses six-stringer. Only the guitarist Jimi Hendrix could have been.

ZAKK WYLDE
An axe legend used to jamming with other legends, having done hard time as Ozzy's guitarist. Not a Bic razor shareholder.

TENACIOUS D
Hollywood's premier comedy rock duo. Returning a favour to Dave after he appeared as Satan in their Tribute video.

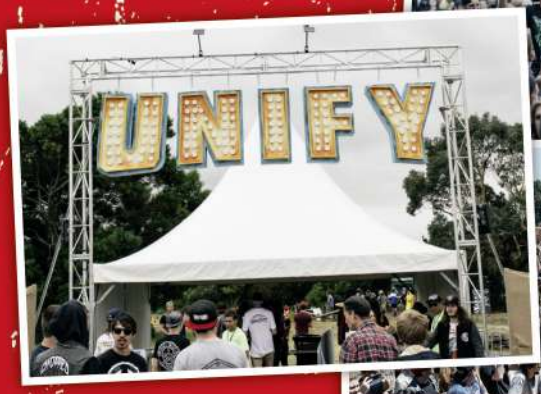
PAUL STANLEY
Often seen next to Gene Simmons in full Kiss make-up. Kind of a big deal. Left his make-up bag at home.



PERRY FARRELL
Leader of alt. rock heroes Jane's Addiction. The only man to rival Lemmy in our Ultimate Rockstar Test, thanks to informing us exactly what it's like to be in an orgy.

NICK OLIVERI
Slap-headed former QOTSA/ Kyuss bassist. Surprised us all by keeping his clothes on onstage.

DAVID LEE ROTH
Van Halen frontman. Best rockstar in America. Fond of rock climbing. Possesses a boyish grin so troublemaking it should require a licence.



UNIFY FESTIVAL

TARWIN MEADOWS, GIPPSLAND, AUSTRALIA. 10 – 11.01.15

CHAOS REIGNS AS KILLER LABEL HOSTS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST METAL CAMPING FESTIVAL

WORDS: SAM COARE **PHOTOS:** NEAL WALTERS

AUSTRALIA HAS never seen anything quite like this. Literally. It's a bizarre curio that a country that's given us AC/DC and, in the Big Day Out and Soundwave festivals, some of music's biggest spectacles, has never known the joys of hauling a warm case of lager and multipack of Hula Hoops from the nearest Lidl to a muddy field. A camping festival dedicated to heavy music? Simply unheard of here. Quite how any of the 3,000-plus fans that have flocked into the Bush some two hours outside Melbourne for the inaugural Unify Festival would cope with Download, when many seem to be struggling enough with tent poles, only Crocodile Dundee would know.

It's even more of a surprise, too, given Australia's burgeoning reputation as a hotbed of emerging talent. In truth, much of the weekend's anticipation falls firmly on the shoulders of line-up-toppers Northlane and The Amity Affliction, but the all-Aussie, single-stage line-up does much to justify the hype.

Kicking things off, **STORIES** (**KKK**) and the caustic **HELLIONS** (**KKK**) show enough (incredibly) early promise to draw fans away from the impromptu games of cricket that break out at every turn. **STORM THE SKY** (**KK**) rise above a disastrously inept vocal performance to just about emerge with their Bright Young Things reputation unscathed, while **IN HEARTS WAKE** (**KKK**) and **THY ART IS MURDER** (**KKK**) both prove tighter than the lid on a jar of Branston's finest, although sometimes as frustratingly impenetrable.

And then there's **DEEZ NUTS** (**WE DON'T KNOW**), who… well, fuck knows what Deez Nuts *actually* do, besides leave us trying to make sense of such a crushing and joyfully buffoonish set. It's a near-perfect festival moment, like the gig equivalent of South Park.

NORTHLANE (**KKKK**) aren't one of the weekend's main attractions for nothing. For their new vocalist, Marcus Bridge, today means an introduction to a home-soil audience. It's a role he fills with aplomb from the first strains of Quantum Flux (and it's a brave move to open any set with your best song), adding a vocal depth that hints at a more diverse and engaging future for a band beloved in their local scene, yet still searching for a spot in hearts abroad. That should change soon, mind.

He'll have been relieved, too, not to have suffered the same annoying fate as **THE AMITY AFFLICTION**'s (**KKKK**) Joel Birch, who earlier in the day could be seen scrambling around his dressing room in search of his voice. Yet while he may not have found it in time to avoid an evidently frustrating evening from a personal front – even with the efforts of co-vocalist Ahren Stringer, who shows on Never Alone and Pittsburgh that he'd be capable of fronting many a band of his own accord – tonight proves we may have discovered metalcore's next heavyweight force.

If only those in attendance had found their tent's instructions quite as easily…

Someone's car failed the MOT on emissions…

The Amity Affliction: "Mate, where's Millets?"

5 MINUTES WITH… AHREN STRINGER

(THE AMITY AFFLICTION, *BASS/CLEAN VOCALS*)

AS A FIRST-EVER EVENT OF ITS KIND IN AUSTRALIA, HOW WAS UNIFY FEST FOR YOU?

"I thought it was really cool, and I cant believe it's taken this long for someone to sort out. To headline it is a real honour; I mean, we've never headlined any festival, but for this to be our first was special. Backstage was like a gathering of old friends; it was like an all-day brodown with the odd live set thrown in!"

WHEN JOEL IS STRUGGLING WITH HIS VOCALS, DO YOU FEEL AN EXTRA SENSE OF PRESSURE TO PERFORM?

"Yeah, I didn't want to have both of us sounding mediocre! Obviously he was having problems, and I think he's the sort of person where it's obvious to the crowd when he's not enjoying himself fully. I was trying to take some of the strain and scream a bit more."

OVERALL, THOUGH, HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR SET WENT?

"I think it went great. In many ways when you're having problems like Joel had, it makes it a little easier to perform under those circumstances, as you're pissed off and channel that into a performance."

One member of AA got caught shorts

TAIM struggled with the devil horns

Hellions regretted telling the campsite they had a supply of loo roll

Deez Nuts' zebra outfit: Half-arsed

An odd time for In Hearts Wake to wash their hair

Northlane did a *really* good job shining their cymbals

Deez Nuts were really pleased with their self-pedicure

SABATON

PLUS: DELAIN, BATTLE BEAST

FORUM, LONDON. 12.01.15

KKKK

PROOF THAT CAMO PANTS ARE ALL-METAL, AND THEN SOME

TONIGHT MAKES a strong case to suggest war-themed metal is the happiest genre of all. Don't let the drum riser fool you (shaped convincingly into a tank) – Sabaton are here to have a jolly good time. First, though, Battle Beast get the blood pumping, predominately in the fists of punters, as they open the night with a barrage of riffs you can jump around to. Dutch goth-metallers Delain do all this, and more, with more pomp than the Queen's birthday, and almost-operatic vocals. What Sabaton lack in falsetto, they make up for in stomping sing-alongs. Pounding the stage with all the power they use to dominate much bigger venues in their native Sweden (including *at their own festival!*), they're a camouflage-uniformed force to be reckoned with. "And they say never do shows on a Monday," mocks frontman Joakim Brodén, who's the beacon of gleaming grins. As he switches between native and English vocals effortlessly, Sabaton fans lap up the anthemic metal jams, all lined with charming, Gorgonzola-tastic choruses and relentless energy. Metalheads, say cheese!

JESSICA BRIDGEMAN

DEAD CONGREGATION

PLUS: ZOM

BLACK HEART, LONDON 01.01.15

KKKK

GREEK DEATH METALLERS RIP LONDON A NEW SOUL

IF YOU let things get too far into your head tonight, you may very well lose sight of the fact that you're upstairs in a Camden pub. Contrary to what Dead Congregation's boiling occult death metal might lead you to think, you're not standing at the foot of the pyramids, locked in a murky crypt, or gazing into the infinite void. Though you could be fooled. For Irish openers Zom, however, while there's a haunting, dark side to their deathly rage, it's delivered with a pub-brawl's worth of punky energy. Which sets things up nicely for Greek death squad Dead Congregation. Well, in the same way you clear a runway before a Eurofighter takes off. Put simply, the force with which songs like Only Ashes Remain and Promulgation Of The Fall are fired out could power the next Star Wars trilogy. It's not enough to play loud, fast and heavy. As with all truly great music, you need that feeling that comes from deep in your bones and fires out of you like dragon's breath. And the devastating effect of Dead Congregation's tight, brutal onslaught is brighter than a thousand Smaugs.

NICK RUSKELL

MAYHEM

PLUS: WATAIN, REVENGE

WEBSTER HALL, NEW YORK. 10.01.15

KKKK

BLACK METAL DEVILS TURN THE BIG APPLE ROTTEN ON DIABOLIC TRIPLE BILL

WORDS: KIM KELLY **PHOTOS:** ANDREW LIPOVSKY

SCREW YOUR House Party Tour, forget all about The Spring Fever Tour, and show Warped the door. This is the Black Metal Warfare Tour, where noise, horror, filth, Satan and military-grade aggression collide in an attempt to turn America into a smoking hole in the ground.

As bizarre as it is to see a band as brutally lacerating as Canadian warlords Revenge take the stage at 7pm, the early set time fazes them about as much as a gnat flying into the path of a tank. For nearly an hour, they churn out blast after blast of roaring, chaotic death interspersed with sickening grooves, and leave the battlefield victorious.

It's an impossible assault to follow, and despite the strong show of support from their leather-vested congregation, Watain fall a little short tonight. The Swedish cult are as well-known for their elaborate stage rituals as they are for their black blaspheming, but tonight's show doesn't quite open the usual gate to Hell. Frontman Erik Danielsson is, as ever, all blood, spikes and possessed stares, and the stage looks killer, filled with crucified skeletons and sigils, but tonight we need a little more to keep the evil faith.

Norwegian black metal godfathers Mayhem have had a rough time, too, and barely made it here at all. And not just because of the murder of former leader Euronymous and suicide of singer Dead two decades ago. They've had visa problems, and so the Metallica of black metal take to the stage *sans* bassist and sole remaining founding member, Necrobutcher, who's reportedly languishing in visa limbo. The remaining members seem confused, as they soldier on four strings lighter. But in insane frontman Attila Csihar, they have a performer (tonight dressed as a corpse-painted general) who's more than capable of saving the day and leading his troops to glory. They might skip over last year's incredible Esoteric Warfare album, but classics like Deathcrush and Freezing Moon (think the black metal equivalent of Sabbath's Paranoid) still chill the blood and leave us baying for more.

It's hard won, but tonight black metal scores a bloody victory. And there's no surrender in sight.

Erik Danielsson's walking cane: tall

Mayhem's hair: also held up at customs

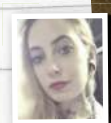
The mic-on-nose balancing champ in action

Does anyone know where Watain can get loads of red light?

Attila from Mayhem went mental with the ketchup

WHAT DID YOU THINK?

VINNIE, NEW YORK
"Euronymous and Dead would've been proud of this. It was primitive as fuck!"



STARR, NEW YORK
"I've been listening to older Mayhem since I was 13, so it was quite nostalgic to see a few of those songs played live."

CHRIS, NEW YORK
"Absolutely killer! Revenge were deadly! While Mayhem brought some of their signature weirdness, their darkness pales in comparison to that of their openers."

REVIEWS

FACE. EVERYTHING. AND. REVIEW.

KKKKK = CLASSIC **KKKK** = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD **KK** = AVERAGE **K** = POOR

PAPA ROACH

F.E.A.R.
(ELEVEN SEVEN)

KKKK

ROCK'S GREAT SURVIVORS REINFEST THE AIRWAVES ON FEARLESS EIGHTH ALBUM

IT'S BEEN 15 years since Papa Roach unleashed their breakthrough album, Infest, on the world. Packed with hulking great riffs, rapped vocals and confessional lyrics, it caught the nu-metal zeitgeist perfectly, and turned the band into stars almost overnight.

What Papa Roach didn't much sound like was a band built for longevity. While the majority of their peers (Alien Ant Farm, Hoobastank) fell by the wayside, however, the Roach proved as resilient as their insectile namesake, constantly reinventing themselves as hard-rock sluggers or glam-tinged icons. At times, it felt like they were consciously distancing themselves from that early nu-metal success, until their last album, 2012's The Connection, when they started to revisit their past. On F.E.A.R., Papa Roach finally sound comfortable enough in their own skins to dip back into every phase of their own back catalogue.

Opener and title track Face Everything And Rise – you see what they did there? – brings together those big, slablike riffs with the skittering electronics they also started to experiment with last time out. Broken As Me sounds like it could be an updated offcut from Infest, but then the bunched-up likes of Falling Apart and Love Me Til It Hurts start to suggest that F.E.A.R. could actually be one of the band's more lightweight outings. They intersperse these Poppy Roach moments with heavyweight riff-bombs, however, and the second half of the album is a real stormer, landing one knockout blow after another.

Two of the most interesting highlights come in the form of Gravity and Warriors. The former sees Jacoby Shaddix baring his soul to a hip-hop beat, ably abetted by a superb guest vocal by In This Moment's Maria Brink. Warriors features another guest slot from Detroit rapper Royce da 5'9", and sees the band dip almost into Prodigy Roach territory with a dancey great synth hook. Both provide clear signposts that the band's evolution hasn't stopped yet, but as the pile-driving Fear Hate Love brings things to a conclusion, it's clear that pummelling rock anthems remain their foundation.

F.E.A.R. is an album that has all the bases covered and stands as a statement of intent from a strong Papa Roach who simply refuse to lie down and die.

DOWNLOAD: Broken As Me, Gravity, Warriors.
FOR FANS OF: Avenged Sevenfold, Godsmack.

PAUL TRAVERS

THE INSIDER
TALES FROM THE STUDIO...

JACOBY SHADDIX
(VOCALS)

ARE YOU PLEASED WITH E.E.A.R., THEN, JACOBY?
"Very pleased with it, yes. You know, we've been a band for a long time, and we've written a lot of songs, so the challenge is to keep things fresh. The key for us is not to have a set way of working, and instead to be open to new ideas and new ways of approaching things."

AND HOW DID THAT MANIFEST ITSELF HERE?
"When we went into the studio, we didn't have a single chorus written. So much of this album came together in the studio. At first I was freaking out about that a bit. But the other guys in the band were like, 'Man, you've been writing songs for more than 15 years. Trust your instincts, it's fine!'"

THIS ALBUM WAS WRITTEN WITH YOU DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE. WERE YOU WORRIED THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO CREATE WITHOUT THESE CRUTCHES?
"Not at all, man. You reach a point where you realise that drugs and drink don't fuel your creativity, they destroy it. You know, I stayed sober when my wife threw me out of the house, so if I can stay strong through that, then I can do this."

TYLER CARTER

LEAVE YOUR LOVE
(VELOCITY/RISE)

KK

PROOF THAT YOU CAN HAVE TOO MUCH R&B

TYLER CARTER is very good at singing. His wildly charismatic vocals are, without question, a central ingredient in a formula that has taken Issues to the brink of megastardom. But it should be noted that part of the reason his crooning style works so well in his day job is that it's juxtaposed against co-frontman Michael Bohn's abrasive raw vocals and his band's raucous bounce. In stark contrast, this EP is six tracks of Tyler in full bump'n'grind R&B mode – a guise which, frankly, suits him less than the one we're used to seeing him in. Saccharine, soppy and decidedly made-for-radio, ultimately this is just a half-hour of bronze-medal duffers. Yes, there are plenty of theatrical flourishes, but precious little by way of songwriting depth, especially if you're a dyed-in-the wool rock fan. Tyler's desire to experiment should be applauded, but honestly, mate, don't give up the day job.

DOWNLOAD: Tears On The Runway, Pt. 1 (feat. Nylo).
FOR FANS OF: Issues. Kind of. Sort of. Ish.

TOMAS DOYLE

RAISED FIST
FROM THE NORTH
(EPITAPH)

KKK

SWEDISH HARDCORE CREW COME IN FROM THE COLD

FROM THE North isn't so much a comeback for Raised Fist as the latest chapter in a story the Luleå hard-nuts sound like they're chipping out of a frozen rock face. Angry? Not a strong enough description. Across the album's 11 tracks, a low-end growl is constant, as frontman Alexander Hagman breathes fire and sets the world to rights. Combining the muscular, blue-collar charm of Sick Of It All with the pulsating energy of Refused, and Rage Against The Machine's righteous indignation, these songs will risk blurring into one for anyone looking for nuance. But for hardcore fans looking for catharsis, however, it's the perfect excuse to raise your fist in the air.

DOWNLOAD: Flow, We Will Live Forever.
FOR FANS OF: Sick Of It All, Rage Against The Machine.

ALISTAIR LAWRENCE

FINSTERFORST
MACH DICH FREI
(NAPALM)

KKKK

BLACK (FOREST) METALLERS HOST A GRIZZLY BEAR'S PICNIC

IF TIME-TRAVEL technology existed, and was used for its proper purpose of going back to the 6th century to kit out a barbarian horde with electric instruments and the first Black Sabbath record, Mach Dich Frei would be the result. Crashing waves of drums and guitar build beneath guttural German vocals, and are lifted by ethereal keys into something truly epic, capturing some of the terrifying might of nature in the band's native Schwarzwald. Intelligent, folksy instrumental passages between moments of high drama give the album scope and variety, and while the accordions occasionally go slightly polka, Finsterforst may be the most weirdly original metal band you'll hear all year.

DOWNLOAD: Schicksals End.
FOR FANS OF: Wintersun, Turisas, Korpiklaani.

JAMES MACKINNON

MARDUK
FRONTSCHWEIN
(CENTURY MEDIA)

KKK

ANOTHER WAR ENSEMBLE FROM BLACK METAL VETS

THE 1999 release of the war-tastic Panzer Division Marduk had people wondering whether corpse-painted Swedes Marduk had lost their marbles and were about to start giving history lectures. Sixteen years later, we have Frontschwein, another album whose title and imagery draw from World War Two. Don't worry, Marduk aren't fascists – they just have a massive boner for war, and it's hard to deny that the subject matter is well-suited to the bombastic savagery of their black metal campaign. Drums imitate rapid-fire machine-guns, guitars strafe your ears and vocalist Mortuus goes absolutely berserk. Twenty-five years in the game, and there's no ceasefire in sight for Marduk.

DOWNLOAD: Afrika.
FOR FANS OF: Dark Funeral, Watain, Slayer.

OLLY THOMAS

A ROCK GEM FROM THE K! VAULTS...

VAN HALEN

BALANCE
(WARNER BROS.)

VAN HALEN ARE HERE! LET'S GET THE PARTY STARTED!
Not so fast! Van Halen with David Lee Roth in the '80s were indeed the ultimate party band. But, released this week in 1995, the Sammy Hagar-fronted Balance found America's greatest rock'n'roll band troubled, but making one of their best albums.

SO, THERE ARE NO PARTYING SONGS AT ALL?
Well, Amsterdam was all about Sammy sparking up a fat one – with lines like, '*Wham bam, oh Amsterdam / Stone you like nothin' else can*' – but Eddie Van Halen reportedly hated the lyrics. Tensions in the band were coming to the boil, and elsewhere this resulted in a dark, contemplative record.

SO THAT MEANT...?
...A full complement of Gregorian chanting, classic rock riffs and songs that veered from the mystical to real issues such as divorce. Don't Tell Me (What Love Can Do) referenced Kurt Cobain's suicide, and Strung Out is the sound of Eddie destroying American composer Marvin Hamlisch's prized piano with a variety of random objects.

AND WAS IT SUCCESSFUL?
It hit Number One in the U.S. album charts and went triple platinum. Not bad at all, considering grunge was supposed to have killed off Van Halen and their ilk.

HEAR IT IN FULL! Kerrang! Radio play the whole album at 10pm, January 22!

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS

THE KERRANG! STEREO

THE 10 NEW ROCK TRACKS MELTING OUR EARS!

1 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE ALL TIME LOW
Yeah, ATL *giving* us a stonking newie for Wembley.

2 NASTY THE PRODIGY
Nasty. Lairy. Rude. It's The Prodigy back on fire, this is!

3 UMA THURMAN FALL OUT BOY
"*Another* sweet new track from FOB? We thought Christmas was over already."
JENNYFER J. WALKER, NEW MUSIC EDITOR

4 APOCALYPTIC HALESTORM
Gawd, this album's gonna be immense. All *Hale*!

5 IT'S ABOUT TIME LIGHT YOU UP
Isn't it about time you heard these Brit pop-punks?

6 INTO THE EYE OF SATAN DEIPHAGO
"Satan's going to have a great 2015 if this lot have owt to do with it."
NICK RUSKELL, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

7 PENCIL PUSHER FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
When Funeral go hardcore, they go LOUD.

8 BONFIRE SEASON GALLOWS
They're back! Quick – get something to smash up to this!

9 THE DEVIL BENEATH MY FEET MARILYN MANSON
"MM is back beneath our ears. Thank God (Of Fuck) for that!"
ELEANOR GOODMAN, PRODUCTION EDITOR

10 LIVING IN THE SONG BLACKBERRY SMOKE
They're living in the '70s, more like. And it ROCKS.

ROAM

VIEWPOINT
(HOPELESS)

KKK

DECENT DEBUT FROM HOTLY TIPPED POP-PUNK BRIT BOYS

THE VIEW up here is pretty darn expansive if you're a British pop-punk band today. And joining fellow UKPP-ers (it'll catch on, trust us) Neck Deep and Light You Up are ROAM – heavy on angsty vocals, and thankfully thick on the Brit accent. This debut EP is a blink(-182)-and-you'll-miss-it rush: a tight 10 minutes of growing up and discovering life's still a bit crap. Try Warning Sign – a big-hitter with enough fun, angular hooks to surprise. Don't expect the pop-punk wheel to be reinvented here – it isn't – but you could do a lot worse than going on a roam through Viewpoint.
DOWNLOAD: Warning Sign.
FOR FANS OF: The Story So Far, Neck Deep, Light You Up.

HANNAH EWENS

CALLISTO

SECRET YOUTH
(SVART)

KKK

FINNISH POST-METAL MOB GET UNDER YOUR SKIN

IF YOU enjoy being uncomfortable, then Callisto are happy to oblige. Favouring edgy, twitchy rhythms and warped discord, they make it damn hard to 'relax' into their epic wares. However, they weave these together with compelling dense grooves and dreamy melodies that are often beautiful – when they *really* shouldn't be. Drawing from post-metal, prog and Alice In Chains-esque ugliness, they poke, drone and lumber their way along, particularly on the cinematic strains of Breasts Of Mothers and closer Dam's Lair Road. Just don't make the mistake of throwing Callisto on when you want to chill.
DOWNLOAD: Dam's Lair Road.
FOR FANS OF: The Ocean, Opeth, Isis, Neurosis.

DAN SLESSOR

BOWLING FOR SOUP

SONGS THAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIKED – VOLUME 1
(PLEDGEMUSIC)

KKKK

TEXAN POP-PUNKS DO A BEST-OF WITH A DIFFERENCE

THERE'S A new song on this album called 20 Years (That's A Lot Of Beers). It sort of sums up two decades of Bowling For Soup – not as mentally challenging as Tool, but perfect for a lark and making things like break-ups sound fun. They might have semi-retired now, but when they do something like a best-of album they still do it properly. The last one felt as if it had no love or thought put into its conception, but for this one they've gone straight to the fans for the tracklist and rerecorded every single song. It's crisper, tighter and a perfect reminder of what a great band Bowling For Soup were, and indeed are.
DOWNLOAD: Emily, Punk Rock 101.
FOR FANS OF: blink-182, Green Day, NOFX.

PAUL TRAVERS

TITLE FIGHT

HYPERVIEW
(ANTI-)

KK

A GOOD BAND, RUINED BY AN OVERDOSE OF MEGA-FUZZ

IF MY Bloody Valentine were a developing nation, not a pretty good, cultishly popular indie rock band, then the UN would be right up in their grille. Their influence, frankly, is contagious. My Bloody Valentine, and indeed shoegaze (an insult-cum-genre born from a music journalist critiquing a wave of bands from 20-odd years ago for being boring onstage and staring at their shoes) is the form of music indie-rockers drift

MOUNTIES

THRASH ROCK LEGACY
(LIGHT ORGANS)

KKK

NOT THRASH, BUT NOT EXACTLY TRASH, EITHER

FIRST THINGS first: if you've seen that title and are expecting a Slayer-like onslaught of shredding guitar, you'd better grab your leather jacket and head for the door. Thrash Rock actually comes from *Thrasher* Rock, a picturesque location in Mounties' native Canada. This, their debut album, is a similarly pretty creation, with Pretty Respectable's scattershot drums providing a clue to the album's largely improvised two-week conception. Meanwhile, Tokyo Summer and If This Dance Catches On are more likely to soundtrack a banging party than a flaying mosh-pit. In short, Mounties rock, even if they don't really *rock*.
DOWNLOAD: Headphones.
FOR FANS OF: The All-American Rejects, The Strokes.

JAMES HICKIE

ESSENCE

SMOKE AND MIRRORS
(SELF-RELEASE)

KK

BELGIAN METALLERS FAIL TO HIT THEIR POTENTIAL

METALCORE ENJOYED a good 2014, with Architects and The Ghost Inside stretching the genre into new and interesting contortions. Perhaps, then, it's for this reason that Belgium's Essence don't cut it. The internal mechanics of Smoke And Mirrors are fine, but they fail to do much with it. At times it's a simple lack of daring, like climbing halfway up Everest and saying: 'Yep, the view's pretty good from here, thanks.' Technically adept riffs threaten to build, but always end up rippling out into obviousness. Essence do seem capable of achieving something truly big – but this really isn't it.
DOWNLOAD: Recovery.
FOR FANS OF: Architects, Counterparts, Periphery.

TOM SHEPHERD

towards when they mature, when they lose the spark of youthful rage. In the case of Pennsylvania's Title Fight, this is extremely disappointing, given that both albums prior to this nice-but-dim third outing – 2011's Shed, 2012's Floral Green – were bona fide works of punk rock brilliance. A massive shame.
DOWNLOAD: Trace Me Onto You.
FOR FANS OF: Slowdive, My Bloody Valentine.
JAMES MCMAHON

MEAT WAVE

BROTHER
(BRACE YOURSELF)

KKK

CHICAGO PUNK NOOBS TURN UP THE MEAT ON DEBUT EP

THE URBAN Dictionary definition of their name may be enough to put you off your ham sarnie, but Meat Waves' debut EP is easier to digest. With enough aggression to give anyone a bad case of meat sweats, the Chicago trio stand to make some serious noise with their snarly, gnarly punk. They make light work of distorted vocals and thrashing drums (Sham King), while nimble guitar work (Brother) sets the energy levels right to relentless. Slotting somewhere between the blood splatterings of PUP and skate punk of Gnarwolves, Meat Wave shouldn't have a problem enrolling straight into today's abrasive DIY punk scene.
DOWNLOAD: Sham King.
FOR FANS OF: PUP, Gnarwolves.
JESSICA BRIDGEMAN

THE ★ ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR!

BEN BRUCE, ASKING ALEXANDRIA

SEE THAT BELT BUCKLE? WE'RE NICKING IT OFF BEN IN THE BOG AT THE KERRANG! AWARDS. BEN, EXPLAIN WHY...

THE LAST FILM I WATCHED WAS...

"Step Brothers [2008]. I must have seen it about 60 times at this point, but it still makes me laugh. Will Ferrell is just hilarious, and yeah, it's stupid as fuck, but when you've got nothing to do on tour, stupid and immature jokes equals 'really funny'. My favourite part is when the two characters are lying in their beds insulting each other quietly – that makes me piss myself."

THE TV SHOW I'M OBSESSED WITH IS...

"Brickleberry. I just got turned on to this, bought the first three seasons, and in two days I'm already at the end of season two. There's a comedian in the States called Daniel Tosh, and he's involved in it, which is why I got it, and it's just a stupid adult animated series with a talking bear that swears, but immature and stupid always appeal to me."

MY DESERT ISLAND ALBUM IS...

"Led Zeppelin's Mothership [2007], because there are *so many* fucking songs on it and I wouldn't get bored. And, it's Zeppelin, which is self-explanatory. They're one of the best bands of all time, and stylistically they really are so rich and varied. On any of their records there are so many moods and feelings."

IF MY HOUSE WAS ON FIRE I WOULD SAVE...

"My PRS guitar that my grandad bought me for my 18th birthday, just before he died. It's my favourite guitar, and I used to write and record and play with it live, but it got kind of beat up, and that made me really sad, so I put her back in her case to rest for a while. She won't go on the road again, but she'll probably be on some records I put out."

MY FAVOURITE FOOD IS...

"Pasta. I love food in general, but if I had to pick one it would be pasta, probably carbonara or lasagne. It's always going to be better if someone else cooks it for me, because I could burn cereal I'm so handy in the kitchen. Someone said to me that the reason I'm getting fat is because I eat too much pasta and I just said, 'No, I'm fat because I'm *jolly*!'"

MY FAVOURITE ITEM OF CLOTHING IS...

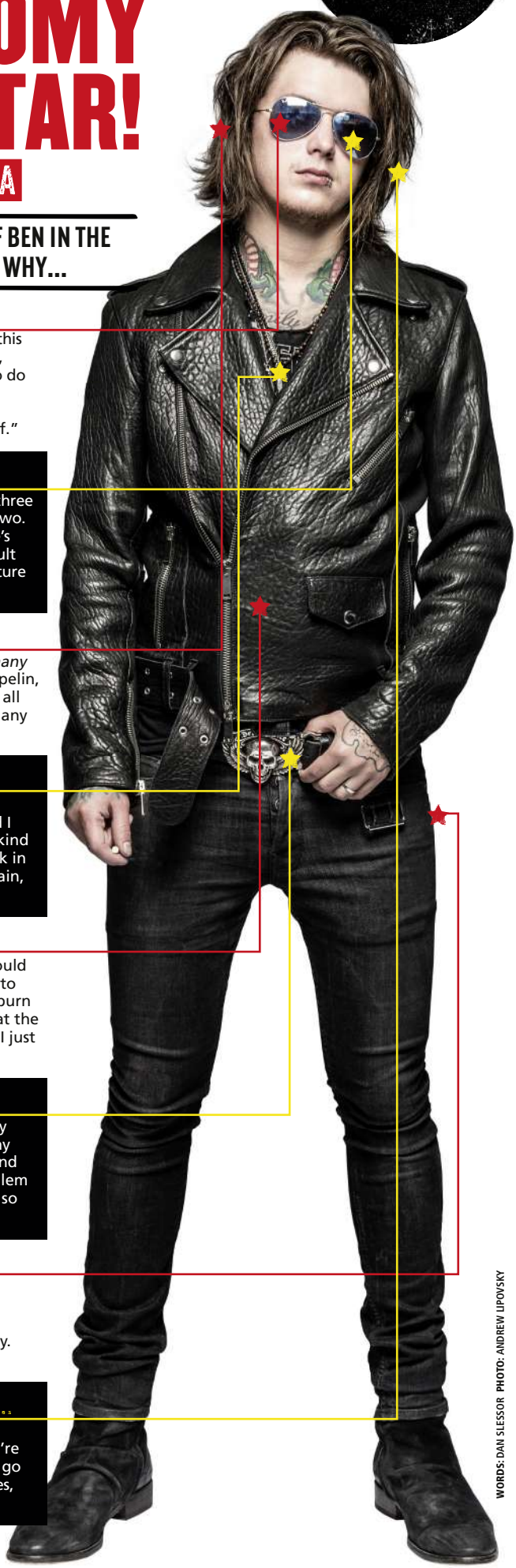
"My custom belt buckle. It was hand carved from silver by the guy who makes jewellery for Alice Cooper and Johnny Depp. I walked into the shop, thought it was awesome and said I wanted it, and he said it was $3,000 – and the problem was, I was with my parents, and I felt that I *had* to buy it so they knew I was doing well for myself!"

MY FAVOURITE PLACE TO GO ON HOLIDAY IS...

"My house! I spend enough fucking time on planes and in hotels! I took my wife away to Turks and Caicos for our anniversary, which was very nice, and very expensive, but honestly, after three days I asked if we could go home early. I just want to sit on my arse watching Netflix!"

THE ONE THING I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ON TOUR IS...

"My iPhone. I use it to keep in touch with my family, but stupid apps and games can make hours whiz by when you're on tour with nothing better to do. The battery's shit and I go through it quickly, and I've gotten through loads of phones, because if I drop them just once they like to explode."



WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

GIGS

DOWN DOWN DOWN (TO THE FRONT)

CHARLIE SIMPSON

SORRY, FIGHTSTAR FANS! SIMMO'S BACK GOING SOLO...

HEY, CHARLIE! CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO START THE NEW YEAR THAN WITH A BUNCH OF SHOWS?
"It has to be one of the best, doesn't it? I love being out on the road, and this tour's going to have a really different vibe because it's completely stripped-back and unplugged. It's mostly just me and an acoustic guitar!"

WITH IT BEING SO CHILLED OUT, WILL YOU BE COMING OFFSTAGE TO A CUP OF TEA RATHER THAN A BEER?
"Well, maybe a nice glass of wine rather than a cup of tea – I'm not going *that* chilled out! One of the best warm-up techniques I know is a shot of Jägermeister before I hit the stage, and I doubt I'll skip that just because it's more low-key!"

LOW-KEY SHOWS LIKE THIS ARE PRIME OPPORTUNITIES TO PULL OUT A FEW COVERS – WHAT'S THE MOST UNLIKELY ONE IN YOUR ARSENAL?
"I *love* playing covers, and I think probably doing Santa Claus Is Coming To Town a couple of Christmases ago is the most out-there one. I made it into something with a really soft, acoustic vibe, and it made me realise you can make *any* silly song serious! If I whip that one out in January, I could really confuse people, too, like, 'Wait a minute: didn't we *just* have Christmas!?'"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

SUPPORT:
EMMA BLACKERY, BLACKWELL

DATES: Dublin Sugar Club January 24, Belfast Limelight II 25, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 27, Glasgow King Tut's 29, Manchester Gorilla 30, York Fibbers 31, Nottingham Rescue Rooms February 1, Cardiff Globe 3, Bristol Thekla 4, O2 Academy2 Oxford 6, Brighton Old Market Theatre 7, Colchester Arts Centre 8, London Islington Assembly Hall 10.

TICKETS AND INFO FOR ALL THESE GIGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

KERRANG! DAY
JANUARY 21

NEWCASTLE: Mark Lanegan Band

BRIGHTON BASTIONS, HIEROPHANT (Sticky Mike's Frog Bar)
KINGSTON MILK TEETH (New Noise @ Bacchus)
LEEDS WITHIN THE RUINS, I DECLARE WAR, AVERSIONS CROWN, ARCANIA (Key Club)
LONDON JAMES VECK-GILODI (Bush Hall, Shepherd's Bush)
LONDON BLEACH BLOOD (Stillery, Camden)
MANCHESTER QUEEN & ADAM LAMBERT (Arena)
NEWCASTLE MARK LANEGAN BAND, SEAN WHEELER, ZANDER SCHLOSS, LYENN (Riverside)
NORWICH AMON AMARTH, HUNTRESS, SAVAGE MESSIAH (Waterfront)
SOUTHAMPTON MOOSE BLOOD, CHOIR VANDALS, BOSTON MANOR (Joiners)
SOUTHAMPTON GERARD WAY, NO DEVOTION (O2 Guildhall Southampton)

THURSDAY
JANUARY 22

READING: No Devotion

BRISTOL JAMES VECK-GILODI (Louisiana)
CANTERBURY MILK TEETH, HINDSIGHTS (West Track Studios)

AMON AMARTH

Frontman Johan Hegg likes to pen songs about Norse gods, but what would be on his godly to-do list were he to ascend to such a position? We found out...

ABOLISHING CHURCHES
"I think the idea of churches is horrible! Why do we need to gather people to be spiritual? That seems like bullshit to me – so, if you want to worship me, do it wherever you want! If you're dead set on gathering, come do it at an Amon Amarth show, because, as a god, I can promise you we'd have the best damn light show you'll ever see!"

OUTDRINKING LEMMY
"As a god, I'd have to abuse my powers a little bit, and I'd challenge unsuspecting mortals to drinking contests. It's not something I enter into a lot, but it would be a lot of fun doing it knowing I couldn't lose! I'd maybe travel back in time and take on Lemmy in his prime, because let's be honest, only a god could stand a chance of drinking him under the table!"

BRINGING BACK A BEATLE
"There are *so* many awesome people it would be worth bringing back just so I could have a chat with them, and if I had to pick one, I think it would be John Lennon. I don't need the secrets of how to write perfect pop songs, I just think he'd be a cool dude to have a drink with. And we could sit there comparing beards!"

SUPPORT:
HUNTRESS, SAVAGE MESSIAH

DATES: Norwich Waterfront January 21, Colchester Arts Centre 22, O2 Academy2 Oxford 23, Stoke Sugarmill 24, Manchester Academy II 25, Glasgow Classic Grand 27, Leeds Stylus 28, Newcastle University 29, Leamington Spa Assembly 30, Southampton 1865 31.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

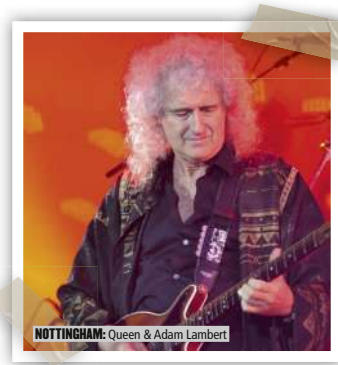
CARDIFF WITHIN THE RUINS, I DECLARE WAR, AVERSIONS CROWN, ARCANIA (Clwb Ifor Bach)
COLCHESTER AMON AMARTH, HUNTRESS, SAVAGE MESSIAH (Arts Centre)
EXETER MOOSE BLOOD, CHOIR VANDALS, BOSTON MANOR (Cavern)
LEEDS MARK LANEGAN BAND (Metropolitan University)
LIVERPOOL SLIPKNOT, KORN, KING 810 (Echo Arena)
LONDON BASTIONS, HIEROPHANT (Old Blue Last, Shoreditch)
LONDON FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND, NO BRAGGING RIGHTS, CREEPER (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
MANCHESTER SAVE YOUR BREATH, AS IT IS, CARDINALS (Sound Control)
READING NO DEVOTION (Bowery District)
SOUTHAMPTON ROB LYNCH, ALLISON WEISS (Joiners)

FRIDAY
JANUARY 23

LONDON: Gerard Way

BIRMINGHAM QUEEN & ADAM LAMBERT (NIA)
BRIGHTON LIGHTS (Haunt)
CARDIFF ROB LYNCH, ALLISON WEISS (Gwdihw)
GLASGOW SAVE YOUR BREATH, AS IT IS, CARDINALS (Audio)
LONDON MOOSE BLOOD, CHOIR VANDALS, BOSTON MANOR (Borderline)
LONDON GERARD WAY, NO DEVOTION (O2 Academy Brixton)
LONDON SLIPKNOT, KORN, KING 810 (SSE Arena, Wembley)
MANCHESTER MARK LANEGAN BAND, SEAN WHEELER, ZANDER SCHLOSS, LYENN (Ritz)
NEWPORT MILK TEETH, HINDSIGHTS (Le Pub)
OXFORD AMON AMARTH, HUNTRESS, SAVAGE MESSIAH (O2 Academy2 Oxford)
OXFORD BASTIONS, HIEROPHANT, 5 MILES NORTH OF NOWHERE, HATEMI (Wheatsheaf)
SOUTHAMPTON FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND, NO BRAGGING RIGHTS, CREEPER, FJORT (1865)
SOUTHAMPTON JAMES VECK-GILODI (Joiners)

SATURDAY
JANUARY 24


NOTTINGHAM: Queen & Adam Lambert

BRISTOL LIGHTS, K.FLAY (Thekla)
CARDIFF SLIPKNOT, KORN, KING 810 (Motorpoint Arena)
CHELTENHAM MILK TEETH, HINDSIGHTS, FLOORBOARDS, NATURES (Two Pigs)
DUBLIN CHARLIE SIMPSON, EMMA BLACKERY, BLACKWELL (Sugar Club)
LEEDS SAVE YOUR BREATH, AS IT IS, CARDINALS (Key Club)
LONDON ROB LYNCH, ALLISON WEISS (Borderline)
LONDON BLACKLISTERS, DEATH RATTLES (Old Blue Last, Shoreditch)
MANCHESTER MOOSE BLOOD, CHOIR VANDALS, BOSTON MANOR (Star & Garter)
NOTTINGHAM QUEEN & ADAM LAMBERT (Arena)
STOKE AMON AMARTH, HUNTRESS, SAVAGE MESSIAH (Sugarmill)

SUNDAY
JANUARY 25

MANCHESTER: Rob Lynch

BELFAST CHARLIE SIMPSON, EMMA BLACKERY, BLACKWELL (Limelight 2)
BIRMINGHAM SAVE YOUR BREATH, AS IT IS, CARDINALS (Asylum)
LEEDS MOOSE BLOOD, CHOIR VANDALS, BOSTON MANOR (Key Club)
MANCHESTER AMON AMARTH, HUNTRESS, SAVAGE MESSIAH (Academy 2)
MANCHESTER ROB LYNCH, ALLISON WEISS (Star & Garter)
SOUTHAMPTON MILK TEETH, HINDSIGHTS (Planet Sounds)

MONDAY
JANUARY 26

BIRMINGHAM MARK LANEGAN BAND (Library)
BRIGHTON ROAM, TRASH BOAT (Audio)
BRISTOL SAVE YOUR BREATH, AS IT IS, CARDINALS (Exchange)
CARDIFF NECK DEEP, KNUCKLE PUCK, SEAWAY, TROPHY EYES (Solus)
GLASGOW MOOSE BLOOD, CHOIR VANDALS, BOSTON MANOR (Audio)
LEEDS LIGHTS (Brudenell Social Club)
LONDON TWIN ATLANTIC (Macbeth, Hoxton)
NORWICH MILK TEETH, HINDSIGHTS (Owl Sanctuary)
NOTTINGHAM SLIPKNOT, KORN, KING 810 (Capital FM Arena)
NOTTINGHAM ROB LYNCH, FRONT PORCH STEP, ALLISON WEISS (Red Room)

LOCAL HEROES
SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE UK'S UNSIGNED TALENT!

THIS WEEK!

HIGH RISE

FROM: Kingston.
WE ARE: Jovic Staddon (vocals), Tom Thain (guitar), Ricky Gurung (guitar), Ryan Beckett (bass), Sammy Christou (drums).
FAVOURITE BANDS: Bring Me The Horizon, Heart In Hand, Slipknot, Will Smith.
WE SOUND LIKE...: "Taking a bear for a walk along a beach at sunset! If our heavy riffs and bowel-emptying breakdowns are the bread, and our catchy sing-along chorus melodies are the jam, then that would be us... as a sandwich..."
PEOPLE SHOULD CHECK US OUT 'CAUSE...: "Our live shows generate more energy than five cups of strong coffee with 10 sugars. We guarantee you'll have your feet stomping and your voice singing!"
CATCH US AT: Bournemouth Eden February 7, Plymouth Tiki Bar 8, Swansea Scene 9, Derby Vic 11, Kingston Fighting Cocks 13.
MORE INFO AT: Facebook.com/highriseandofficial

ARE YOU AND YOUR BANDMATES LOCAL HEROES? IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ABOVE TO GIGS@KERRANG.COM, AND DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH A PHOTO OF YOUR BAND. SIMPLY PUT 'LOCAL HEROES' AND YOUR BAND NAME IN THE SUBJECT HEADER AND YOU COULD BE APPEARING IN THIS VERY SLOT VERY SOON...

TUESDAY
JANUARY 27

BIRMINGHAM NECK DEEP, KNUCKLE PUCK, SEAWAY, TROPHY EYES (O2 Academy2 Birmingham)
BIRMINGHAM SLIPKNOT, KORN, KING 810 (Barclaycard Arena)
BRISTOL PIANOS BECOME THE TEETH (Exchange)
BRISTOL MARK LANEGAN BAND (O2 Academy Bristol)
GLASGOW ROB LYNCH, FRONT PORCH STEP, ALLISON WEISS (Audio)
GLASGOW AMON AMARTH, HUNTRESS, SAVAGE MESSIAH (Classic Grand)
GLASGOW LIGHTS (King Tut's)
LEEDS MILK TEETH, HINDSIGHTS (Key Club)
LIVERPOOL ROAM, TRASH BOAT (Studio 2)
NOTTINGHAM SAVE YOUR BREATH, AS IT IS, CARDINALS (Rock City Basement)
SHEFFIELD MOOSE BLOOD, CHOIR VANDALS, BOSTON MANOR (Corporation)
WOLVERHAMPTON CHARLIE SIMPSON, EMMA BLACKERY, BLACKWELL (Slade Rooms)

For free inclusion, e-mail your gig/festival details to: Gigs@kerrang.com
Please include: 1. DATE 2. CITY 3. VENUE 4. BAND (+band genre) 5. SUPPORT BANDS or FESTIVAL INFO. No attachments!
Note: If any of these details are missing, listing will not be included.
Deadline is 15 days previous to Kerrang! issue dates.

GO SEE! SAVE YOUR BREATH

SUPPORT: AS IT IS, CARDINALS.
TOUR DATES: MANCHESTER SOUND CONTROL JANUARY 22, GLASGOW AUDIO 23, LEEDS KEY CLUB 24, BIRMINGHAM ASYLUM 25, BRISTOL EXCHANGE 26, NOTTINGHAM ROCK CITY BASEMENT 27, SOUTHAMPTON JOINERS 28, LONDON OLD BLUE LAST 29, CARDIFF CLWB IFOR BACH 30.

The Welsh music scene has taken a hit in the past year, with Kids In Glass Houses and The Blackout calling it quits. And now there's another injury to an already weeping head wound: Save Your Breath, who are playing their last tour *ever*. Who's gonna pose in front of insanely ugly wallpaper when they're gone? We dunno, but you should definitely go see them this week.

PHOTO: MARTIN PHILBEY

JUST ANNOUNCED!

LAST SHOWS EVER: The Swellers

ALL TIME LOW
Support added: Neck Deep.

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY
Manchester Academy II March 7, Glasgow Garage 8, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 9, Bristol Bierkeller 11, Colchester Arts Centre 12, London Camden Electric Ballroom 13.

ENTER SHIKARI
Support added: Feed The Rhino, Allusondrugs, Fatherson.

GALLOWS
Glasgow Cathouse May 22, London Highbury Garage 26, Manchester Sound Control 27. Support: Baby Godzilla.

HARK
O2 Academy2 Birmingham April 21, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 22, London O2 Academy Islington 23, O2 Academy Bristol 24.

HIT THE DECK
Line-up: Skindred, While She Sleeps, Cancer Bats, Frnklero AndThe Cellabration, A Great Big Pile Of Leaves, Allusondrugs, Ashes, As It Is, Beasts, City Of Ships, Dead!, Dead Hearts, Decade, Devil Sold His Soul, The Early November, Idiom, Junius, Rolo Tomassi, The Swellers, Thomas Nicholas Band, Tim Vantol, When We Were Wolves, You Blew It!, Zoax. Bristol April 25, Nottingham 26.

INGESTED
London Camden Black Heart February 24, Sheffield Corporation 27, Croydon Scream Lounge March 28, Chesterfield Skintfest April 5, Leeds DC Fest @ Packhorse 11.

JON GOMM
Worcester Marrs Bar March 2, Chester Telfords Warehouse 3, Nottingham Glee Club 4, Birmingham Glee Club 6, Sittingbourne Avenue Theatre 7, Norwich Owl Sanctuary 8, Wakefield Hop 9, York Fibbers 10, Huddersfield Bar 122 12, Ebbw Vale Institute 13, Cardiff Moon 15, Bristol Colston Hall 16, Southampton Joiners 17, London Jazz Cafe 18, Milton Keynes Stables 19, Devon Kingskerswell Church 22, Cambridge Junction II 23, Brighton Komedia 24, Liverpool Leaf 26, Manchester Gorilla 27, Newcastle Cluny II 28, Sheffield Corporation 30, Leeds Brudenell Social Club April 4.

MOOSE BLOOD
Colchester Arts Centre March 3, St Albans Horn 4, Leicester Scholar Bar 5, Northampton Roadmender Underground 6. Support: Creeper.

NOTHING BUT THIEVES
Aberdeen Tunnels February 27, Newcastle Head Of Steam 28, Birmingham Sunflower March 2, Norwich Epic Studios 5, Liverpool Studio II 6, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 7, Exeter Cavern 8, Cambridge Portland 9.

SHAWN SMITH
Winchester Railway Inn April 23, Bristol Folk House 24, Birmingham Hare & Hounds 26, Manchester Sound Control 27, Glasgow Classic Grand 28, Edinburgh Voodoo Rooms 29, Newcastle University Student Union May 1, Nottingham Glee Club 3, London Bush Hall 5.

SICK OF IT ALL
Date added: London Camden Underworld February 7.

THE SWELLERS
Birmingham Rainbow April 21, Manchester Sound Control 22, Glasgow Audio 23, Leeds Key Club 24, London Tufnell Park Dome 27, Brighton Hope 28.

YOU ME AT SIX
SUPPORT: TBC

DATE: War Child charity show @ London Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen February 22.

Tickets for all K! gigs are available from:

ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
Dublin O2 Arena May 28, Belfast Odyssey Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro June 1, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 2, Leeds First Direct Arena 3, Birmingham NIA 5 – 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Phones 4u Arena 9, Liverpool Echo Arena 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 12 – 14.

36 CRAZYFISTS
Plymouth Hub February 4, Bournemouth Sound Circus 5, Brighton Concorde II 6, Bristol Marble Factory 7, Stoke Sugarmill 8, Glasgow Classic Grand 10, O2 Academy Newcastle 11, Manchester Academy III 12, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 13, Birmingham Asylum 14, Norwich Waterfront 15, London Camden Electric Ballroom 17, Southampton Engine Rooms 18, O2 Academy Oxford 19. Support: All Hail The Yeti, Cytota.

AC/DC
Glasgow Hampden Park June 28, Dublin Aviva Stadium July 1, London Wembley Stadium 4.

ALL TIME LOW
London SSE Arena Wembley March 20. Support: Real Friends.

ALL TIME LOW / YOU ME AT SIX
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena February 9, Birmingham LG Arena 10, Glasgow SSE Hydro 12, Manchester Phones 4u Arena 13, London O2 Arena 14.

AMON AMARTH
Norwich Waterfront January 21, Colchester Arts Centre 22, O2 Academy2 Oxford 23, Stoke Sugarmill 24, Manchester Academy II 25, Glasgow Classic Grand 27, Leeds Stylus 28, Newcastle Uni 29, Leamington Spa Assembly 30, Southampton 1865 31. Support: Huntress, Savage Messiah.

ANATHEMA
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire April 16.

ARCHITECTS
Bristol Anson Rooms March 9, Manchester Ritz 10, O2 ABC Glasgow 11, Birmingham Institute 12, Nottingham Rock City 13, London Camden Roundhouse 14. Support: Every Time I Die, blessthefall, Counterparts.

ATREYU
London Camden Underworld April 29.

BLACK LABEL SOCIETY
O2 ABC Glasgow February 11, Birmingham Institute 12, London Camden Roundhouse 13, O2 Academy Bristol 14, O2 Academy Leeds 15, Norwich UEA 17, Nottingham Rock City 18, Manchester Academy 19. Support: Black Tusk, Crobot.

THE BLACKOUT
Birmingham Asylum March 23, London Camden KOKO 24, Manchester Academy III 25, Glasgow King Tut's 26, Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre 28.

BLACK VEIL BRIDES
London Highbury Garage March 13, London Camden Electric Ballroom 15.

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR
Line-up: Trivium, Rob Zombie, Within Temptation, Opeth, Ihsahn, Cannibal Corpse, Sepultura, Death DTA, Dark Angel, Nuclear Assault, Orange Goblin, 1349, Armored Saint, Overkill, Ensiferum, Belphegor, Sabaton, Agalloch, Enslaved, Korpiklaani, Pro-pain. Derbyshire Catton Park August 6 – 9.

BLUES PILLS
London O2 Academy Islington April 22, Cardiff Globe 23, Manchester Academy 24, Dublin Voodoo Lounge 25, Belfast Limelight II 27, Glasgow Cathouse 28, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 29, Bristol Bierkeller 30.

CHARLIE SIMPSON
Dublin Sugar Club January 24, Belfast Limelight II 25, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 27, Glasgow King Tut's 29, Manchester Gorilla 30, York Fibbers 31, Nottingham Rescue Rooms February 1, Cardiff Globe 3, Bristol Thekla 4, O2 Academy2 Oxford 6, Brighton Old Market 7, Colchester Arts Centre 8, London Islington Assembly Hall 10.

COMEBACK KID
London Highbury Garage May 22. Support: Bane.

CONVERGE
London ULU May 30. Support: Trap Them, Harms Way, Young And In The Way.

CROWN THE EMPIRE
London Camden Electric Ballroom February 5, Manchester Club Academy 6, Glasgow Garage 7, Leeds University 8, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 10, Norwich Waterfront 11, Birmingham Asylum 12, Southampton Mo'Club 13, Bristol Fleece 14. Support: Set It Off, Dangerkids, Alive Like Me.

DEVIL SOLD HIS SOUL
Brighton Green Door Store April 22, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 23, Manchester Sound Control 24, Leeds Key Club 30, Glasgow Classic Grand May 1, Norwich Epic Studios 3, London 100 Club 4.

DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT
O2 Academy Bristol March 29, O2 ABC Glasgow 30, Manchester Academy 31, London Royal Albert Hall April 13. Support: Periphery, Shining.

DOWNLOAD
Line-up: Slipknot, Muse, Kiss, Judas Priest, Faith No More, Mötley Crüe, Five Finger Death Punch, A Day To Remember, Slash Featuring Myles Kennedy & The Conspirators, Black Stone Cherry, Marilyn Manson, Enter Shikari, Black Veil Brides, Lamb Of God, Billy Idol, Rise Against, Parkway Drive, Hollywood Undead, Clutch, Body Count, Eagles Of Death Metal, Godsmack, Mallory Knox, Motionless In White, Madball, Every Time I Die, DragonForce, Backyard Babies, Crown The Empire, Northlane, H.E.A.T. Donington Park June 12 – 14.

FALL OUT BOY
Leeds First Direct Arena October 3, Aberdeen AECC GE Oil & Gas Arena 4, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Arena 9, Bournemouth International Centre 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 11.

FIGHTSTAR
Birmingham Institute February 23, O2 ABC Glasgow 24, Manchester Academy 26, London O2 Academy Brixton 27 (rescheduled date). Support: More Dangerous Animal, Cytota.

FOO FIGHTERS
Sunderland Stadium Of Light May 25, Manchester Emirates Old Trafford 27, London Wembley Stadium June 19 – 20, Edinburgh BT Murrayfield Stadium 23. Support: Iggy Pop, Royal Blood (June dates only).

FORT HOPE
Bristol Exchange February 16, Leeds Key Club 17, Glasgow Cathouse 18, Manchester Sound Control 19, London Borderline 21.

FOUR YEAR STRONG
Leeds Metropolitan University March 20, Glasgow Arches 21, Manchester Academy II 22, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 23, Cardiff Y Plas II 24, Norwich Waterfront 25, London Camden Electric Ballroom March 26, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 27, Brighton Concorde II 28, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29. Support: Hit The Lights, Forever Came Calling, Light You Up.

FRNKLERO AND THE CELLABRATION

Manchester Deaf Institute April 16, Leeds Key Club 17, Glasgow King Tut's 19, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 20, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 22, Brighton Haunt 23, O2 Academy Oxford 24, London Camden Underworld 28, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29.

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
London Camden Electric Ballroom January 22, Southampton 1865 23. Support: No Bragging Rights, Creeper.

GERRARD WAY
O2 Guildhall Southampton January 21, London O2 Academy Brixton 23. Support: No Devotion.

GLAMOUR OF THE KILL
Glasgow Audio February 24, Newcastle Think Tank? 25, Manchester Sound Control 26, York Fibbers 27, London Camden Underworld 28, Bristol Exchange March 1, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 3, Stoke Sugarmill 4, Nuneaton Queens Hall 5, Nottingham Rock City Basement 6, Gloucester Guildhall 7, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 8. Support: The Hype Theory, EofE.

HALESTORM
Dublin Academy February 27, Belfast Limelight 28, Norwich UEA March 2, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Academy Leeds 5, Glasgow Barrowland 6, Inverness Ironworks 7, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 9, London Camden Roundhouse 10, O2 Guildhall Southampton 12, Cardiff Uni Great Hall 13, O2 Apollo Manchester 14. Support: Nothing More (except Norwich and Nottingham), Wilson.

HAWK EYES
Liverpool Maguire's Pizza Bar February 12, London Camden Barfly 13, Southampton Joiners 14, Bristol Louisiana 16, Nottingham Bodega 17, Manchester Sound Control 18, Newcastle Cluny 19, Glasgow Nice N Sleazy 20, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 21. Support: God Damn.

HEVY FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Dillinger Escape Plan, Monuments, Vales, Grader, Up River, OHHMS, Collisions. Port Lympne Wild Animal Park August 14 – 15.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL
Line-up: Deez Nuts, Adept, The Ghost Inside, Whitechapel. Manchester Academy May 4.

IN THIS MOMENT
Glasgow Garage February 28, Leeds Metropolitan University Beckett SU March 1, Manchester Academy II 2, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall 4, London Camden KOKO 5. Support: Fearless Vampire Killers.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Prodigy, You Me At Six, Billy Idol. Newport Seaclose Park June 12 – 15.

KERRANG! TOUR 2015
Line-up: Don Broco, We Are The In Crowd, Bury Tomorrow, Beartooth. Norwich Nick Rayns LCR @ UEA February 6, O2 Academy Leeds 7, O2 Guildhall Southampton 9, O2 Academy Bristol 10, Dublin Academy 11, Cardiff Uni Great Hall 13, Manchester Academy 14, O2 Academy Newcastle 15, O2 Academy Glasgow 16, O2 Academy Liverpool 18, O2 Academy Birmingham 19, London Kentish Town Forum 20.

LONELY THE BRAVE
Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach March 4, High Wycombe Buck Students' Union 5, Bicester Courtyard Youth Arts Centre 6, Leicester Scholar 7, Nottingham Bodega (basement) 9, Manchester Ruby Lounge 10, Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut 12, Newcastle Upon Tyne Cluny 13, York Fibbers 15, Leeds Key Club 16, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 17, London ULU 19, Tunbridge Wells Forum 20, Brighton Sticky Mike's 21, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 23, Bristol Exchange 24.

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS
Cardiff University April 9, O2 Academy Oxford 10, Newcastle Riverside 12, Glasgow Garage 13, Manchester Academy III 14, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 15, Dublin Academy 17, Belfast Bar Sub At Queens SU 18, Bristol Marble Factory 20, Bournemouth Old Fire Station 21, Brighton Concorde II 22, Norwich Epic Studios 23. Support: We Are The Ocean, PVRIS.

MARIACHI EL BRONX
Edinburgh Electric Circus February 3, Glasgow King Tut's 4, Manchester Gorilla 5, Stoke Sugarmill 6, Leeds Key Club 7, Newcastle Cluny 8, Huddersfield Parish 10, Nottingham Bodega Social Club 11, Bristol Thekla 12, Gloucester Guildhall 13, London Brooklyn Bowl 14, Norwich Epic Studios 15, Brighton Komedia 16, Guildford Boileroom 17, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 18.

MARK LANEGAN BAND
Newcastle Riverside January 21, Leeds Met University 22, Manchester Ritz 23, Birmingham Library 26, O2 Academy Bristol 27, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 28, Portsmouth Pyramids 29.

MARMOZETS
Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms February 18, London Camden Electric Ballroom 19, Bristol Fleece 20, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 21, Manchester Academy III 23, Glasgow Garage 24, Newcastle Riverside 25, Leeds Beckett Students' Union 27, Birmingham Library @ Institute 28.

MOOSE BLOOD
Southampton Joiners January 21, Exeter Cavern 22, London Borderline 23, Manchester Star & Garter 24, Leeds Key Club 25, Glasgow Audio 26, Sheffield Corporation 27, Liverpool Evac Loft 28, Birmingham Oobleck 29, Brighton Sticky Mike's Frog Bar 31. Support: Choir Vandals, Boston Manor.

NASS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enter Shikari. Bath & West Showground. July 10 – 12.

NECK DEEP
Cardiff Solus January 26, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 27, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 28, Glasgow Garage 30, Leeds Beckett Students' Union 31, Manchester Academy II February 2, O2 Academy Bristol 3, Norwich Waterfront 4, Brighton Concorde II 5, London Camden Electric Ballroom 6. Support: Knuckle Puck, Seaway, Trophy Eyes.

NICKELBACK
Sheffield Motorpoint Arena November 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 16, Manchester Arena 17, Liverpool Echo Arena 19, Birmingham Genting Arena 21, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 22, London SSE Arena Wembley 24.

NO DEVOTION
Reading Bowery District January 22.

NOFX / ALKALINE TRIO
O2 Academy Birmingham June 27, O2 Academy Newcastle 30, O2 Academy Leeds July 3, O2 Academy Brixton 4.

OF MICE & MEN
O2 Guildhall Southampton March 26, O2 Academy Bristol 27, London O2 Academy Brixton 28, Glasgow Barrowland 30, O2 Academy Newcastle 31, Nottingham Rock City April 2, O2 Academy Birmingham 3, Manchester Academy 4. Support: The Amity Affliction, Volumes.

OPETH
London Palladium October 18.

PAPA ROACH
Norwich UEA March 8, O2 Academy Bristol 10, O2 Guildhall Southampton 11, London Camden Roundhouse 12, Glasgow Barrowland 14, Manchester Academy 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 17, Nottingham Rock City 18. Support: Coldrain, The One Hundred.

PLACEBO
Dublin Olympia February 25, Belfast Waterfront 26, Edinburgh Corn Exchange 28, O2 Academy Glasgow March 1, Aberdeen Music Hall 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 4, Hull City Hall 6, Blackburn King George's Hall 7, O2 Academy Leeds 9, Liverpool Guild Of Students 10, O2 Apollo Manchester 12, O2 Academy Sheffield 13, Norwich UEA 15, Leicester De Montfort Hall 16, O2 Academy Birmingham 18, Bristol Colston Hall 19, O2 Academy Bournemouth 21, Southend Cliffs Pavilion 22, London Eventim Apollo 24 – 25.

THE PRODIGY
O2 Academy Newcastle May 4, Bridlington Spa 5, O2 Academy Birmingham 7, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 8, Blackpool Empress Ballroom 9, Reading Rivermead 11, Brighton Centre 12, Bournemouth International Centre 14, London Alexandra Palace 15 – 16.

PVRIS
London Camden Barfly April 16, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 18.

QUEEN + ADAM LAMBERT
Manchester Phones 4u Arena January 21, Birmingham NIA 23, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 24.

READING & LEEDS
Line-up: Metallica, Pierce The Veil, Refused, Manchester Orchestra. Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 28 – 30.

ROAM
Brighton Audio January 26, Liverpool Studio II 27, London Camden Barfly 28. Support: Trash Boat, The Gospel Youth (London only).

ROB LYNCH
Southampton Joiners January 22, Cardiff Gwdihw 23, London Borderline 24, Manchester Star & Garter 25, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 26, Glasgow Audio 27, Newcastle Think Tank? 28, Leeds Key Club 29, Birmingham Asylum 30, Kingston All Saints Church 31. Support: Allison Weiss.

ROYAL BLOOD
Glasgow Barrowland February 22 – 23, Plymouth Pavilions 27, Bridlington Spa 28, Portsmouth Guildhall March 2, Newport Centre 3, Norwich UEA 5, Blackpool Empress Ballroom 6, Belfast Ulster Hall 8, Dublin Olympia 9 – 10, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 11, London O2 Academy Brixton 13, Nottingham Rock City 14.

SATYRICON
Manchester Sound Control April 7, London King's Cross Scala 8.

SAVE YOUR BREATH
Manchester Sound Control January 22, Glasgow Audio 23, Leeds Key Club 24, Birmingham Asylum 25, Bristol Exchange 26, Nottingham Rock City Basement 27, Southampton Joiners 28, London Old Blue Last 29, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 30. Support: As It Is, Cardinals.

SICK OF IT ALL
Nottingham Rescue Rooms January 29, Newcastle Think Tank? 30, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 31, Dublin Voodoo Lounge February 1, Belfast Limelight II 2, Glasgow Classic Grand 4, Manchester Sound Control 5, London Camden Underworld 6, Bristol Fleece 8. Support: Broken Teeth (Nottingham, Leeds and Manchester only).

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS / PIERCE THE VEIL
Norwich UEA March 29, Portsmouth Guildhall 30, O2 Academy Bristol 31, Manchester Academy April 2, O2 Academy Leeds 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 6, Nottingham Rock City 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 8, London Kentish Town Forum 10 – 11. Support: Issues.

SLIPKNOT
Liverpool Echo Arena January 22, London SSE Arena Wembley 23, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 24, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 26, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 27. Support: Korn, King 810.

SOCIAL DISTORTION
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire May 3.

STEEL PANTHER
O2 Apollo Manchester March 6 – 7, O2 Academy Glasgow 9, Newcastle O2 Academy 10, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 12, Leicester O2 Academy 13, London SSE Arena Wembley 14. Support: Skindred, The Lounge Kittens.

SYSTEM OF A DOWN
London SSE Arena Wembley April 10.

TAKEDOWN FESTIVAL
Line-up: Mallory Knox, Charlie Simpson, InMe, Bleed From Within, Devil Sold His Soul, Decade, Empire, The One Hundred, Allusondrugs, Milk Teeth, In The Hills, Dendera, Confessions Of A Traitor, Refuge Of The Fallen, Griever, Three Times Over, Baby Godzilla, Fearless Vampire Killers, Fort Hope, Rolo Tomassi, ZOAX, Colt 45, Ugly Love, Dead!, Ashestoangels, Create To Inspire, Forever Never, Meta-stasis, Seething Akira, Gone By Tomorrow. Southampton University March 7.

TERROR
London Camden Underworld March 15. Support: Knuckledust, Broken Teeth.

THEORY OF A DEADMAN
Bristol Bierkeller April 23, Sheffield Leadmill 24, O2 ABC Glasgow 26, Manchester Academy II 27, Birmingham Library @ Institute 28, London King's Cross Scala 30.

TRASH TALK / BEING AS AN OCEAN
Glasgow Cathouse May 5, London ULU 6. Support: Deez Nuts, Stick To Your Guns.

TWIN ATLANTIC
London Macbeth January 26. Manchester Albert Hall May 5, London O2 Academy Brixton 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 8, Glasgow SSE Hydro 9.

THE USED
Southampton Mo'Club February 5, Nottingham Rock City 7, O2 Academy Newcastle 8, Glasgow Garage 10, Aberdeen Lemon Tree 11, Leeds Stylus 13, Manchester Academy II 14, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 15, O2 Academy Oxford 17, London Camden KOKO 19, O2 Academy Bristol 20. Support: Landscapes.

WE ARE THE OCEAN
London Camden Electric Ballroom April 8.

WEDNESDAY 13
Sheffield Corporation March 5, Reading Bowery District 6, Exeter Cavern 7, Southampton Joiners 8, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 10, Manchester Club Academy 11, Newcastle Think Tank? 12, Glasgow Cathouse 13, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15, Norwich Waterfront 17, Cardiff Globe 18.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS / CANCER BATS
Birmingham Institute April 22, Manchester Ritz 23, Norwich UEA 24, Newcastle University 28, O2 ABC Glasgow 29, London Kentish Town Forum 30.

YELLOWCARD / LESS THAN JAKE
O2 Academy Glasgow March 4, O2 Academy Birmingham 5, O2 Academy Newcastle 6, Nottingham Rock City 7, London Camden KOKO 9 – 10, Manchester Academy 12, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Academy Leeds 14. Support: Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!.

MY FIRST GIG

PLACEBO, MUSIC HALL, ABERDEEN, 2004

MURRAY MACLEOD, THE XCERTS

"I HAD been a massive pop-punk fan for a while, and I thought that people wearing long shorts and singing in American accents was the norm, and then I discovered [2000's] Black Market Music and it took me in a different direction. When I found out Placebo were playing in Aberdeen, I really delved into their catalogue, and it was an amazing first rock show to see. I went with three of my school friends, and on the day of the show we were just so excited – we couldn't believe we were actually going to get to see a *band*!

"I remember walking into the venue and just being so blown away by the place – and we were just completely bowled over by a band being that loud! They looked so cool back then, too – they had the really tall, funny-looking bass player [Stefan Olsdal] and [frontman] Brian Molko had the long hair and stuff, and the aesthetic itself really dragged you in.

"They definitely weren't human beings that night – they were from rock fucking heaven or something! They sounded great,

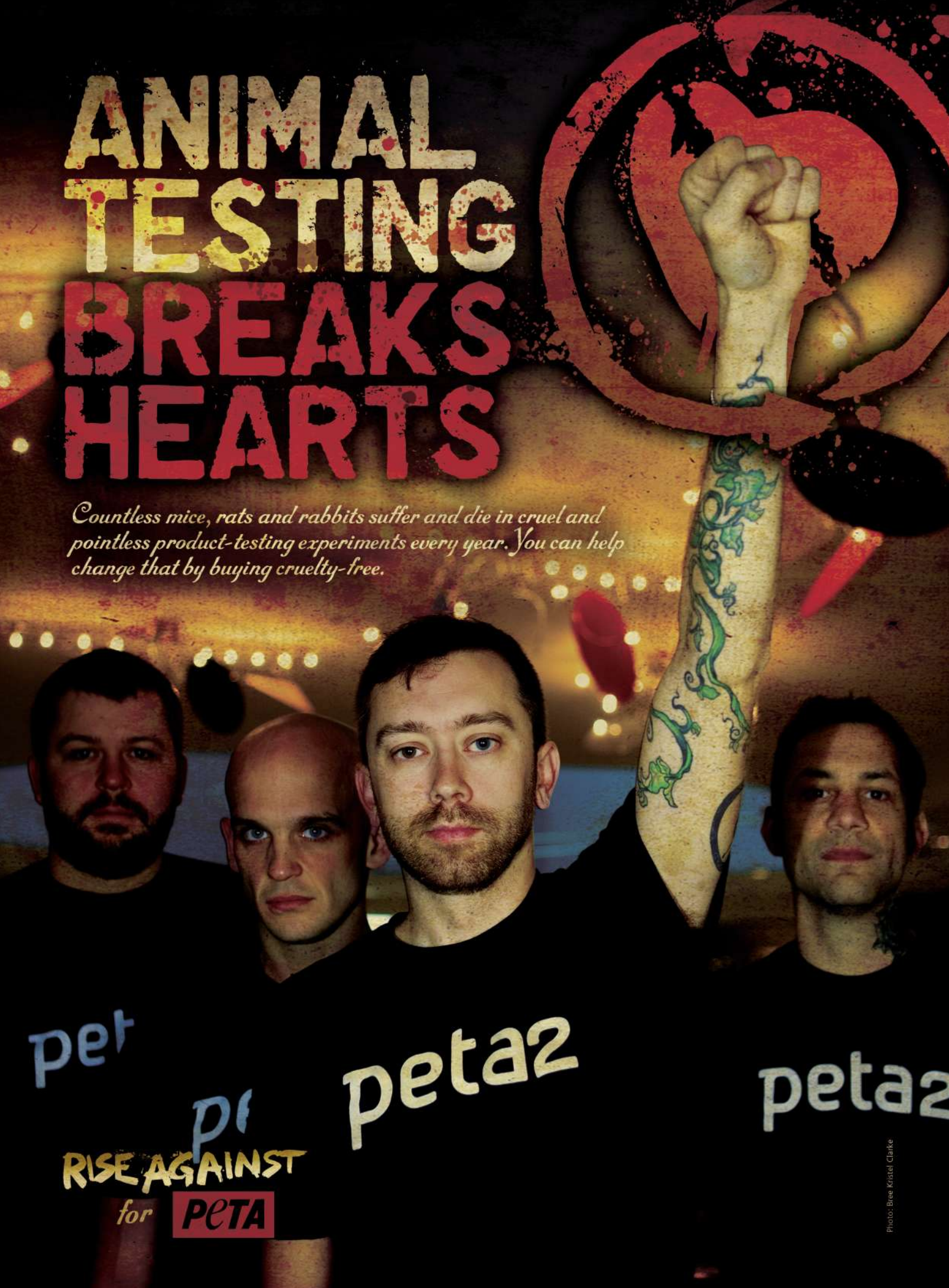
"THEY WEREN'T EVEN HUMAN THAT NIGHT!"

too – every song sucked me in and took me to this other place, and in particular Nancy Boy was totally incredible that night, and Slave To The Wage, which was immense. I definitely walked away at the end of the show thinking, 'Yes, I totally have to do that.'

"I saw Idlewild about three weeks later in the same venue, and I think Placebo basically planted the seed in me, and then seeing Idlewild just pushed me over, more so perhaps because they were a Scottish band and I could relate to them a little better. We actually played that venue on the Twin Atlantic tour, and when we went in I remembered *everything* about walking in there for that Placebo show, and how much bigger everything seemed at the time! Even the merch table seemed immense and amazing!"

COMING SOON: Weezer, Green Day, blink-182 and more!

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR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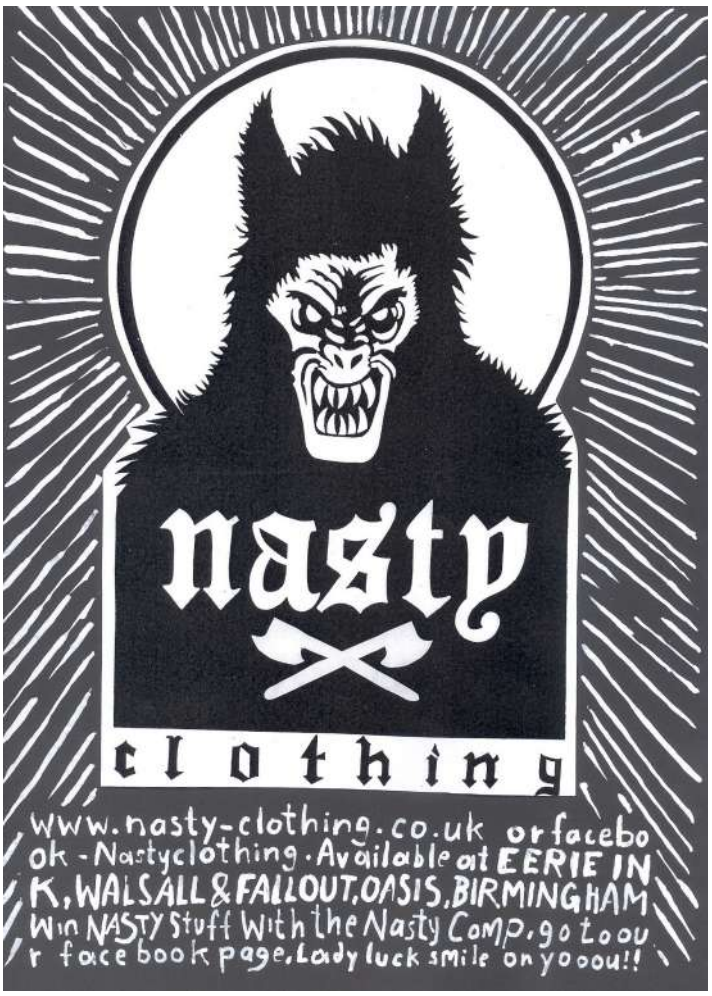

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THE ALL-NEW ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

THIS WEEK: JOSH FRANCESCHI, YOU ME AT SIX

Josh is about to stomp over the UK's arenas when You Me At Six team up with All Time Low. But is Mr YMAS rock'n'roll enough to handle it? Read on…

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST BAR TAB YOU'VE EVER RUN UP?
"I've been in places before where it's been in excess of five or six grand. With Bring Me The Horizon at a festival once, we spent about £1,500, which isn't that much. But one of the perks of being in a band is that people give you free alcohol. So if you rack up a big bar tab for yourself, you're doing it all wrong."

WHAT'S THE MOST STUPID PURCHASE YOU'VE EVER MADE?
"I bought a TV for about £800, and I left it in its box for two and a half years. You could go and buy it from Sainsbury's for about £150 now. So that was a bit of a waste of money."

HAVE YOU EVER INJURED YOURSELF ONSTAGE?
"I sprained my ankle in Kuala Lumpur. I sort of ran up the wall like Jackie Chan. I bounced off, and landed with my ankle askew. After the show, we had to do a signing, and I had to have my foot in this huge bin of ice, with a bottle of Jack for the pain."
SMOOTH MOVE, BRO. THAT'S *JUST* HOW JACKIE CHAN WOULD DO IT…

ON YOUR OWN MUSIC...

IN WHICH YEAR DID YOU FIRST SUPPORT PARAMORE ON AN ARENA TOUR?
"It was 2009. At one gig, the PA had broken, but we didn't realise because we had in-ear monitors. We thought we sounded great, but nobody could hear us! Our tour manager let us do two songs like that before we realised."
YMAS SILENT DISCO. NO…?

WHO DID YOU CLASH WITH WHEN YOU HEADLINED THE SECOND STAGE AT DOWNLOAD IN 2012?
"Metallica. We weren't expecting it to be the best show of all time. But, rather than just sort of turning up and giving in, we thought, 'Why don't we put on the biggest show we can?' So we got all these flames and pyro – it was great!"
DID YOU SEND HETFIELD THE BILL?

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

WHERE WOULD YOU RATHER SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE – HOLLYWOOD OR WEYBRIDGE?
"Hollywood. Weybridge I've done for 24 years, and I'm sort of over it now, if I'm honest. I love it, it's got all the schools I went to and a lot of my early memories, but I haven't been there properly – living there – since I was 15 or 16. None of my close friends live there anymore, and it's just fucking miserable. I mean, Sainsbury's is the highlight of Weybridge town centre, so I'd quite happily try living somewhere different."

"A £1,500 BAR TAB? THAT'S NOT THAT MUCH..."

COMPLETE THE LINE: *'I'VE HONESTLY NEVER FELT THIS ALONE…'*
"(*Sings to himself*) '…*Oh I just need someone*'. It's from Room To Breathe. We've just got off a tour in America where we played that song three or four times a day, because we were doing TV and radio performances. So I think if I didn't know the lyrics to it by now, I'd have a bit of an issue!"
YOU STILL HAD TO SING THE FIRST LINE TO YOURSELF, THOUGH…

WHICH YOU ME AT SIX SONG WOULD YOU CONSIGN TO THE BIN FOR ALL TIME IF YOU COULD?
"Gossip. I once said something like, 'I'd rather be repeatedly hit in the balls with a hammer for the rest of my life than ever admit to writing Gossip.' So now, we'll be playing shows and fans will give me a little look and pull out signs that say 'Play Gossip'."

IF YOU HAD TO EAT ANOTHER MEMBER OF YOU ME AT SIX TO SURVIVE, WHO WOULD YOU EAT?
"Dan [Flint, drums], because he's got quite a lot of meat on him. He's healthy, he's got a pretty good diet, looks after himself, and there'd be some pretty good protein on him."
WE THOUGHT YOU USED FLINT TO LIGHT A FIRE…

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

WHAT DOES GOD LOOK LIKE?
"Like Morgan Freeman in Bruce Almighty, and he'd be a pimpy God. I don't believe in Him, but I like to think of God as an everyday person, so Morgan Freeman in that film is about right."
HEAR THAT, GOD? GET MORE PIMPY!

JOSH SCORED 75%

If a grand at the bar isn't that much, then we're going out with Josh more. We thought he might be too nice for this, but through money-wasting, duking it out with Metallica and using Jack as medicine, he's proved us wrong here. But poor old Weybridge – be a little nicer, Josh!

THE LEADERBOARD!
WHO TO BEAT IN 2015!

LEMMY, MOTÖRHEAD 99%
ICE-T, BODY COUNT 97%
ALICE COOPER 95%

ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW 55%

WORDS: NICK RUSKELL

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